FRIDAY
February 6, 2026
BENGALURU
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Stand-off in Assemblies has become a constant

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India will travel to Colombo: Suryakumar

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Tackling hate speech with AI

BENGALURU
Content on social media and other digital platforms can come under the scanner as the State government will deploy AI-powered Social Media Analytics Solution software to identify hate speech and malicious campaigns in news and advertising. » PAGE 9

Metro zone-wise fare revised

BENGALURU
BMRCL has announced a zone-wise fare revision effective February 9, under its Annual Automatic Fare Revision mechanism. The revised structure brings a marginal increase of ₹1 to ₹5 across 10 fare zones in the network. » PAGE 3

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

18 killed in blast at illegal coal mine in Meghalaya

The explosion, likely caused by dynamite, had trapped several persons at an unspecified depth, say police; CM promises action after one of the worst mining tragedies in the State since 2012

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

An explosion in an illegally operated rat-hole coal mine in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills district killed 18 miners on Thursday, officials said.

This is one of the biggest mining-related tragedies since July 2012, when 15 miners died in a flooded mine in the State's South Garo Hills district. Two years later, in 2014, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned the hazardous mining method.

Vikash Kumar, East Jaintia Hills district's Superintendent of Police, said the police received information about an explosion at an illegal coal mine at Mynsyngat in the Thangsko area around 11 a.m. A team rushed to the spot and confirmed that an explosion, suspected to have been caused by dynamite, had trapped several persons at an unspecified depth. "We recovered 18 bodies. An injured person, initially rushed to a community health centre, was referred to a higher medical centre for treatment," he said.

District officials said teams from the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force have been engaged at the site to continue with the rescue and recovery efforts. Officials said they were trying to identify the victims.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Blast site: A videograb of the mine where the explosion occurred in East Jaintia Hills on Thursday. PTI

Deep death traps

Many workers have died in Meghalaya's rat-hole coal mines before and after the NGT banned the practice in April in 2014. Some of the major mishaps:

- **July 2012:** Underground stream flooded a mine in South Garo Hills district, killing at least 15 miners
- **Dec. 2013:** Five fell to death after a cable of a carriage mechanism breaks in East Jaintia Hills district
- **Dec. 13, 2018:** At least 15 drowned in a flooded 370-foot-deep mine in East Jaintia Hills
- **Jan. 21, 2021:** Six killed after a crane snaps in East Jaintia Hills district
- **May 30, 2021:** Five miners died after a dynamite blast caused flooding of a mine in East Jaintia Hills district
- **Jan. 7, 2025:** At least three killed on Assam-Meghalaya border as a mine wall collapsed
- **Feb. 5, 2026:** At least 16 died after a suspected dynamite blast trapped them

'Talks on, India-U.S. deal joint statement in 4-5 days'

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

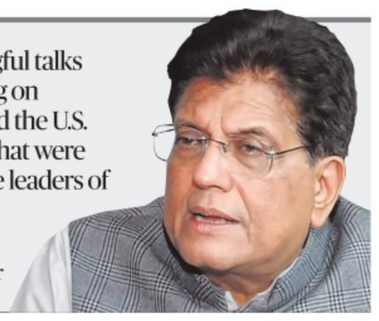
India and the U.S. will "finalise and sign" a joint statement on the first tranche of the bilateral trade agreement in the next four to five days, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

He said U.S. tariffs on Indian exports will be cut from 50% to 18% through an executive order from the U.S. President following the statement.

India can reduce tariffs on U.S. imports after signing the legal and formal agreement, which is expected mid-March, the Minister said.

"Meaningful talks are going on between India and the U.S. on the decisions that were announced by the leaders of the two countries," Mr. Goyal said. "The first tranche of the Bilateral Trade Agreement is nearly ready."

> Meaningful talks are going on between India and the U.S. on the decisions that were announced by the leaders of the two countries
>
> **PIYUSH GOYAL**
> Commerce Minister



On the commitment to buy goods worth $500 billion from the U.S., the Minister cited India's growth requirements and said one "can clearly see before our eyes as potential that we can import from the U.S. over the next five years".

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said a joint statement has followed each free trade agreement that India has negotiated with other countries.

$500-billion imports

"Once the joint statement is there, it needs to be converted into a legal agreement," he said. "The legal agreement will give us the authority to reduce our tariffs. Their (U.S.) tariffs are executive tariffs [and so can be amended by executive orders]." MFN tariffs are those that World Trade Organisation members impose on goods from other member nations.

Mr. Goyal said India's growth would require large volumes of energy, data centre equipment, information and communication technology products and aircraft plus spares. "When we estimated what we would need from the U.S., we came to a figure of at least $500 billion," he said.

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

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Shri M.B. Patil
Hon'ble Minister for Large and Medium Scale Industries & Infrastructure Development

Shri C. Puttarangashetty
Hon'ble MLA, Chamarajanagara & Chairman, MSIL

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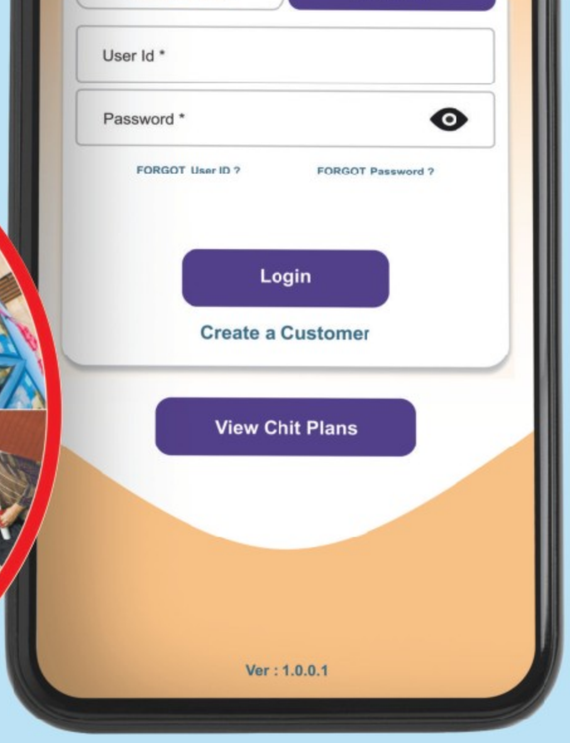

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I wanted a new challenge and a new opportunity to make an impact in a new league

The Irish shot-stopper, who rates Tamil Nadu Dragons teammate Prince Deep highly, talks about the evolution of goalkeeping, the value of experience and enjoying the pressure moments

INTERVIEW

David Harte

K. Keerthivasan

Ireland's 36-year-old goalkeeper David Harte was a pillar of strength for the Tamil Nadu Dragons in the 2025-26 Hockey India League (HIL), producing a series of outstanding saves during regulation time as well as in shoot-outs.

A vastly experienced campaigner with over 240 international caps, Harte has featured in domestic leagues in Ireland, the Netherlands, India and Germany, bringing a wealth of knowledge to every team he represents. Speaking to *The Hindu*, the Irish goalkeeper, who announced his international retirement on Thursday, reflected on his move to a German club this season, his experiences playing in "incredible India," and the importance of sharing his expertise with younger players.

"I wanted a new challenge, a new opportunity to make an impact on a new group and in a new league – to travel around Germany, play different clubs, and experience different playing styles," Harte said. Comparing HIL with the Malaysian league, where he previously played, Harte noted similarities in structure. "I would compare HIL's structure and set-up a little closer to the league in Malaysia, which is played during the winter breaks. I played there for the University of Kuala Lumpur for three seasons. The HIL and the Malaysian league are shorter, with matches coming closer together, whereas the domestic leagues I played in Ireland, the Netherlands and Germany are longer," he explained. Excerpts

It was your fifth HIL. Very few have played five HIL editions before you. As a senior goalkeeper of Tamil Nadu Dragons and one who has played for long in India, how was the experience?

It was fabulous. As a senior player in the team, it's also about trying to recognise the position and the role you have within a group. Can you have an impact on that group and can you have a positive presence within the team? Can you bring experience of having played in five HILs?

Can you show that to the junior players who are coming through? Can I do that with young and promising goalkeeper Prince Deep Singh as my deputy here as well. I will try and help to develop him to become one of the best goalkeepers of the Indian National team.

When I calculated all months and weeks of competitions in the Hockey India League, with tournaments representing Ireland, like the World Cup and the World League, I think I've spent maybe close to a year and a half of my life in total in incredible India. It's a country that I can't keep away from.

Any player from Tamil Nadu Dragons who impressed you this season?

Prince Deep as a goalkeeper has made impressive strides and being the quality person who he is, he open to helping the group, helping the team. He's been one to watch out for. Forward Uttam Singh really impressed with dedication, his drive, and his want to be better as a player and he's also a fabulous human being. All those things combined make it a brilliant package deal.

You have played in leagues in Ireland, The Netherlands, and now in Germany. In what way HIL differs from the other leagues?

I would compare HIL's structure and set-up probably a little bit closer to the league in Malaysia, which is played during the winter breaks. I played there for the University of Kuala Lumpur for three seasons. One of them was with my roommate Sander De Wijn, who is now with us at TN Dragons. I think the HIL and Malaysian league are just shorter, matches come a little bit closer together whereas the domestic leagues that I played in Ireland and in the Netherlands, and also the one in Germany, all start in September, maybe through to November. Then, a winter break, you'll start up again in March, you'll finish in the playoffs hopefully sometime in May-June.

How are you able to maintain peak reflexes and agility while playing at the highest level?

You have to put in a lot of time and a lot of dedication to your work. You have to have a supporting family, a very supporting wife, like in my case. And let's be honest, if you speak to anyone else also approaching the age, I think Vincent Vanasch, Belgium goalkeeper playing for JSW Soorma HC in HIL, he will say it does get a bit tougher as the years go on. But if you still have the same kind of fire burning inside you and the same motivation and goal sets, then that's what drives you and gives you energy in the mornings and late evenings when you're on the turf. And that's currently the same situation for me.

What has experience at the highest level taught you?

As you age, you have a little bit more trust and belief in yourself. So, basically what you can do is you can spend time on helping and coaching others. And that's certainly what I try and aim to do, guide the players around me. It doesn't matter if it's a young junior international with zero caps or the likes of Sander or Amit Rohidas with over 200 international games and Olympic medals. That's what you do at the back as a goalkeeper. You try to be a pillar of strength for them as a goalkeeper; and it doesn't matter if you're playing in the Dutch league or elsewhere.

Why did you quit SV Kampong, a top division Dutch club after 13 long years?

I have recently joined a German club, HTC Uhlenhorst Mülheim. The choice behind it was family. My eldest daughter was going to primary school. It was time potentially to be more focused towards family. As I said, after 13 years, it was time to return home to our homeland. My wife is from Belfast, a city in Northern Ireland. Our eldest daughter was starting her schooling at the beginning of this year in a primary school. And my wife in particular was eager to get home to family and be closer to friends. And I said, that was no problem. I knew I wasn't done with hockey yet. So, a German club reached out and ended up signing me with Moritz Ludwig, a teammate from the Hockey India League last season. I wanted a new challenge, a new opportunity to make an impact on a new group and in a new league, travel around Germany, play in different clubs, play with different styles of teammates.

How has the shift to the German club been?

It has been quite hectic. I train locally on Tuesday with the local Irish team. I then fly on a Thursday and stay until Sunday with my German club, Ullenhorst Mulheim. Yes, one particular reason was that it was a shorter competition. And less time away from family and less travelling.

German league started in the first week of September and will finish in May-June. It's very intense, though. That way, I could combine my role and my life as a father back here to help out my wife and be with my two daughters.

How do you mentor young goalkeepers, both in Ireland and in leagues in Germany, Dutch and India?

I just recall like many goalkeepers that have been before me who have passed on a lot of information and knowledge and have helped me big time in my career. And that's something I would try to do for the younger goalkeepers moving forward. It's also a great way to have a good impact on them and to connect at a deeper level, because not everybody really understands what it's like until you're actually there standing under the crossbar and experiencing the pressure of being a goalkeeper.

How much has the role of goalkeepers evolved since your early days?

I think it's like logically with anything that goes, you just become a little bit more experienced, perhaps, maybe a bit more of a common figure. And I think also with that, you just become a lot more trusting and comfortable with yourself as a person and individual. And that really helps a lot to be able to try and nurture and develop other goalkeepers and players around you. You try to instill confidence in them as well.

How do you manage pressure situations during shootouts at high-stake tournaments?

I think you believe in the training that you've done and the experiences that you have been through and seeing the opportunity that you have to make a difference. You see it as a positive rather than a pressure moment. Like I've always said, as a goalkeeper, you might have an opportunity to be the hero where I often think the pressure was usually on the taker. They perhaps only have that one opportunity and those eight seconds to make a difference.

Which one remains your most memorable tournament?

Personally, it was my last tournament, the Paris Olympics in 2024. It was just the five incredibly tough games, but probably the most consistent matches that I had ever played at that level. And the most relaxed and the best feeling I had. And having my two daughters with my wife and family in the stands watching are moments I'll cherish forever and certainly never forget.

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Ghaziabad deaths renew focus on gaming addiction among children

Doctors say 'they are witnessing a steady rise in children seeking help for problematic technology and gaming use'

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

The deaths of three minor sisters in Ghaziabad, following restrictions imposed by their parents on mobile phone usage, have prompted mental health professionals in Karnataka to reiterate concerns over excessive screen time, online gaming and the growing emotional distress among children and adolescents.

Experts said the incident has highlighted the need for closer scrutiny of digital consumption patterns among minors and early mental health interventions.

Doctors at NIMHANS said, "They are witnessing a steady rise in children seeking help for problematic technology and gaming use."

Manoj Kumar Sharma, professor of Clinical Psychology and Director of the Service for Healthy Use of Technology (SHUT) Clinic at NIMHANS, said, "Gaming addiction among children is often linked to a combination of accessibility, persuasive game design and underlying emotional vulnerabilities."

"Devices have become affordable and internet access is among the cheapest in the world. As a result, children across socio-economic backgrounds now own smartphones and have uninterrupted access

Children with existing mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder are at a higher risk. PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY

to games," Dr. Sharma told *The Hindu*. "Screens are ubiquitous and that allows children to use them even in classrooms, washrooms, in the bed, etc., which makes monitoring difficult."

Dopamine trigger

Dr. Sharma pointed out that gaming platforms are designed to be immersive, with constant reward systems that encourage prolonged engagement. "These design features trigger dopamine release and create a sense of achievement and belonging that some children may not experience in the offline world. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable as their impulse control and inhibitory systems are still developing," he said.

Quoting data from a 2022 NIMHANS study, Dr. Sharma said that technology addiction was emerging as a public health concern. "Our study estimated the prevalence of technology addiction in the State at 10.69%, with mobile phone addiction accounting for 8.91% and gaming addiction 2.55%. Risk factors include loneliness, academic decline, impulsivity, poor coping skills and lack of social support," he said.

Emotional escape

Children with existing mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder are at a higher risk. "Gaming often becomes a form of emotional escape rather than entertainment. In such cases, restricting screen time alone will not address the problem unless the underlying distress is identified and managed," he said.

Murali Krishna, consultant in Psychiatry and Counselling Services at Aster RV Hospital, Bengaluru, said, "Excessive gaming can affect emotional regulation and overall development."

"Children who spend long hours gaming may show irritability and impatience when asked to stop. The constant stimulation conditions the brain to seek quick rewards, making routine activities less engaging," he said. He added that online interactions often replace face-to-face relationships, limiting opportunities to develop communication and emotional skills. "Sleep disruption due to late-night gaming further affects mood, concentration and emotional resilience," Dr. Krishna said.

Warning signs

Vinodh Sreeram, senior psychiatrist at Maarga Mind Care, said the incident reflects a wider rise in youth mental health concerns. "Isolation, excessive technology use and sudden behavioural changes must be treated as warning signs," he said, stressing the need for early intervention.

"Loneliness, anxiety and depression are increasingly seen among children who rely on virtual spaces for emotional support. Communication within families, digital responsibility and timely mental health support can be lifesaving," Dr. Sreeram said.

All the experts emphasised that the family environment plays a critical role in moderating screen use. Dr. Sharma said inconsistent screen rules and high parental screen use often contribute to conflicts and excessive gaming among children.

"Parents should watch for signs such as craving, loss of control, compulsive gaming and academic or social decline. Early help can prevent long-term consequences," Dr. Sharma added.

BIAL eyes direct flights from Bengaluru to South Korea

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

The Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), operator of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), is planning to expand its international connectivity to a couple of destinations in Asia Pacific (APAC) region and Europe.

Girish Nair, chief operating officer, BIAL, said, "We are looking at a couple of long haul destinations in the APAC region of which one is a destination in South Korea."

"There is a good demand for South Korea, especially with Kia (South Korean multinational automobile manufacturer). I am surprised how we still do not have flights from Bengaluru to South Korea because the numbers are really good," Mr. Nair told *The Hindu*.

At present, Bengaluru is connected to five European cities such as London, Paris, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, and Munich. FILE PHOTO

> There is a good demand for South Korea, especially with Kia (South Korean multinational automobile manufacturer)
> **GIRISH NAIR**
> Chief Operating Officer, BIAL

Proximity to Kia

The BIAL is looking to cash in on the airports' proximity to Kia's manufacturing plant near Penukonda in Andhra Pradesh and the closest international airport to Penukonda is KIA, which is a little over 100 km by road.

Mr. Nair also said that BIAL has had discussions with a few international airlines to start operations to a couple of European cities.

"In Europe, there are a couple of destinations where we feel we need connectivity. We have some meetings lined up, and we will announce it when it is done," he said.

At present, Bengaluru is connected to five European cities: London, Paris, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Munich with flights operated by British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, Air France, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, and Lufthansa.

As of December 31, 2025, the KIA was connected to 34 international cities.

In 2025, new international routes were added to Dammam, Ho Chi Minh City, Krabi, Hanoi and Riyadh.

Connectivity to U.S.

Connectivity to the U.S. has not really taken off from Bengaluru as American carriers have not been able to operate direct flights from U.S. cities to Bengaluru due to ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. In February 2020, American Airlines had announced the launch of a Seattle-Bengaluru flight service scheduled to commence in October 2020. Later, the United Airlines announced that it would be starting a direct flight service between Bengaluru and San Francisco by spring 2021.

But, the COVID-19 outbreak led to postponement of the services and later Russian invasion of Ukraine impacted their plans to start flight services to Bengaluru.

Air India, which is the only airline to operate from Bengaluru to the U.S., has also announced that it would be discontinuing the Bengaluru-San Francisco direct flight from March 1.

"American airlines are still looking at India very seriously, but till the time the airspace closure gets settled we may not be able to start flights. There are a couple of American carriers who are talking to us. I don't want to name them, but right now the environment is not very conducive for them to start direct flights," Mr. Nair said.

Bowring Institute office-bearers receive threat

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bowring Institute management filed a complaint with the cybercrime police on Wednesday alleging criminal intimidation, conspiracy, and circulation of threatening messages against its office-bearers and members.

The complainant, H.S. Srikanth, honorary secretary of the institute, said that the issue dates back to 2013 when several members were expelled for allegedly securing illegal memberships.

The expelled members had challenged the decision before various courts, but their petitions were dismissed, thereby upholding the institute's decision. In June 2025, a development proposal was placed before the general body and later approved in the Special General Meeting (SGM). Following this, the expelled members, allegedly in collusion with a few existing members, began opposing the project.

Fake identities

The complaint alleged that false, defamatory, and threatening messages were being circulated through print, electronic, and social media platforms using fake identities, forged documents, virtual numbers, private networks, and international phone numbers to conceal the identity of the accused. The office-bearers and members have reportedly received threatening WhatsApp messages and calls, including threats intended to create fear and disharmony among members on community, linguistic, and regional lines.

The complaint lists multiple threatening messages received between December 15, 2025, and January 16, 2026, including messages originating from international numbers, reportedly from Thailand. The Bowring Institute has urged the police to identify the unknown persons involved, register a criminal case, conduct a cyber-forensic investigation, and take strict legal action. The police have registered an FIR against under various sections of the IT Act, 2000, and for criminal intimidation under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

Pilot project for mechanised cleaning machines

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru North Corporation on Thursday introduced a pilot project to introduce mechanised cleaning machines in place of brooms for sweeping roads, starting with a trial run in Sahakar Nagar. Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar said that mechanised sweepers and blower machines were being introduced to improve daily road-cleaning and reduce physical burden on pourakarmikas. Trolly mounted dust bins would also be used regularly for collecting road waste. He added after evaluating their use, a proposal would be submitted to the government for procuring additional equipments.

BIFFes 2026: Experts discuss growing momentum of vertical film-making

S.P. Vishnu Saketh Bhattar
BENGALURU

A panel discussion at the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFES) explored vertical film-making as an emerging narrative form, underlining its growing significance in India's rapidly evolving digital content landscape.

Moderated by journalist Sunayana Suresh, the session featured actor-filmmaker Rajshri Ponnapa, cinematographer Manohar Joshi, content professional Lovenith S. Ramapure, and creator Varsha.

Vertical film-making refers to content produced in a 9:16 aspect ratio, tailored primarily for mobile consumption. Though still nascent in India, panellists noted that the format has witnessed swift adoption, mirroring a decisive shift towards phone-first viewing habits.

Drawing global comparisons, the speakers pointed to China, where micro-drama series have already developed into a robust ecosystem. India, they

Panellists at the 17th edition of the Bengaluru Film Festival during a session on 'Vertical Film-making', in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vertical film-making refers to content produced in a 9:16 aspect ratio, tailored primarily for mobile consumption

said, appears to be moving along a similar trajectory. Platforms such as Zee's Bullet, launched about a year ago, were cited as early indicators of the industry's growing interest in vertical storytelling.

Responding to questions on the future of micro-dramas in India, Ms. Varsha said the format holds considerable promise. "India is an early entrant in this space. Anyone can create content, and individual perspectives will become increasingly important," she said, adding that the ecosystem is still evolving and deserves close attention from industry stakeholders.

Entry barriers

Mr. Ramapure, drawing on his experience at Kuku FM, observed that vertical formats have significantly lowered entry barriers for creators. With over 25 platforms already in operation and several larger players expected to enter the space, he noted that consumption patterns resemble the dopamine-driven engagement seen on Instagram Reels and YouTube Shorts.

The panel also examined how writers are adapting to the demands of short-format storytelling. Ms. Ponnapa said the transition has been challenging for those accustomed to long-form narratives.

"If there is no emotional hook within the first 10 seconds, the audience moves on," she said, pointing out that unlike traditional cinema, which allows narratives to unfold gradually, vertical content demands immediacy and speed.

New narrative

Describing vertical film-making as a new narrative language, Ms. Ponnapa said stillness and restraint often communicate more effectively than overt dramatization. Recalling her experience creating *Phool Sa Chara* for the Bullet app, she emphasised the need for rapid execution, strong emotional beats, and a wider pool of adaptable writers. From a technical perspective, cinematographer Mr. Joshi noted that while the fundamentals of film-making remain unchanged, the visual grammar continues to evolve. "There is no fixed frame in vertical film-making," he said, highlighting the creative possibilities offered by experimentation with composition and angles.

Only change in medium

Addressing concerns that emerging formats may undermine cinema, the panellists dismissed the notion. Ms. Ponnapa reiterated that cinema remains unparalleled as an art form, while Mr. Joshi likened the shift to the transition from radio to pocket transistors- a change in medium rather than in storytelling itself.

'Next five years'

Concluding the session, Ms. Varsha said adaptation was no longer optional. "If India moves aggressively, the mobile content market could be worth billions in the next five years. Those who fail to adapt risk being left behind," she said.

Infertility in India: bringing mental health to the forefront of condition

Mental health is not a peripheral concern in fertility care, it is a central determinant of reproductive health; until it is treated as an integral component of care for all genders, gap between what science knows and what society believes will widen; stigma should be replaced with science, silence with dialogue, and blame with compassion

Rashikkha Ra. Iyer

Is womanhood synonymous with motherhood? This question has lingered in the Indian social imagination for generations. The country's fertility landscape remains firmly anchored in a patriarchal narrative, where a woman's worth, identity, and social legitimacy are overwhelmingly tied to her ability to bear children.

Despite the biological fact that conception requires both a man and a woman, the moral burden of infertility is placed almost exclusively on women. Women without childrenare openly discouraged from attending weddings, baby showers, or religious ceremonies. Such exclusions deepen feelings of shame, isolation, embarrassment, identity fragmentation, and perceived moral failure.

Infertility, though a medical condition like any other, is frequently subjected to moral scrutiny. Even when medical evaluations clearly identify male-factor issues – such as low sperm counts or unexplained infertility – the cultural script continues to place blame squarely on women. This persistent assumption reinforces a deeply entrenched gender bias that distorts both responsibility and compassion.

Research shows that heightened anxiety and depressive symptoms are associated with lower success rates in procedures such as IVF. The monthly cycle of hope, hyper-vigilance, and disappointment compound this stress, creating a physiological environment that is less conducive to conception. GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

- Despite the biological fact that conception requires both a man and a woman, the moral burden of infertility is placed almost exclusively on women. Even when medical evaluations clearly identify male-factor issues — such as low sperm counts or unexplained infertility — the cultural script continues to place blame squarely on women
- Mental health challenges do not merely accompany infertility; they can actively impair reproductive function. Findings from a number of studies underscore that emotional distress is not simply "in the mind" — it is inscribed in the endocrine system
- Mental health support cannot remain a decorative add-on to reproductive care. It must be embedded into every stage of assessment and treatment. Screening for anxiety, depression, and relational strain should be as routine as semen analysis or hormone testing

Men's mental health

What often goes unacknowledged in these conversations is that male infertility itself is deeply intertwined with mental health, and that psychological distress can directly impair sperm quality. This is well-established in contemporary reproductive science. A 2024 original research article in *Frontiers in Endocrinology* found that depression is significantly associated with decreased semen quality, including reduced sperm concentration and motility (Zhang et al., 2024). This means that the very men who are culturally insulated from blame may themselves be experiencing psychological states that biologically diminish fertility potential.

Further evidence comes from a 2025 open-access study in *Reproductive Biology and Endocrinology*, which demonstrates that depression, anxiety, and stress impair sperm quality through dysregulation of the mitochondrial PDK-PDC axis, a pathway essential for healthy sperm metabolism (Wang et al., 2025). This mechanistic insight reinforces that mental health is not merely an emotional overlay, but a physiological determinant of reproductive function.

Ironically, the very patriarchal norms that so swiftly assign fault to women also conspire to keep men silent about their own psychological distress. This enforced quietude does more than perpetuate stigma – it may be actively undermining fertility itself. Observations from clinical reviews indicate that chronic psychological stress triggers activation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, driving up cortisol levels and destabilising the hormonal milieu essential for healthy spermatogenesis.

What emerges from this body of research is a striking paradox: while women absorb the social, emotional, and reputational costs of infertility, men's unaddressed mental health burdens may be biologically fuelling the very condition for which women are castigated.

Infertility, though a medical condition like any other, is subjected to moral scrutiny. If the silence around men's mental health obscures its biological consequences, the landscape for women is even more fraught

Acknowledging this dual reality is not merely a matter of fairness or empathy – it is central to improving reproductive outcomes.

If the silence around men's mental health obscures its biological consequences, the emotional landscape for women is even more fraught – and the science here is equally unambiguous. Mental health challenges do not merely accompany infertility; they can actively impair reproductive function. A landmark study in *Human Reproduction* found that women experiencing high levels of psychological stress had significantly lower probabilities of conception during each menstrual cycle, with elevated salivary alpha-amylase – a biomarker of stress –correlating with reduced fecundability (Lynch et al., 2014). In other words, stress is not just a by-product of infertility; it can be a precursor.

Findings from a number of studies underscore that emotional distress is not simply "in the mind" – it is inscribed in the endocrine system.

Taken together, the evidence paints a sobering picture: women are not only socially penalised for infertility but may also be physiologically disadvantaged by the very emotional burdens that stigma imposes. It is a cruel feedback loop – one in which social pressure becomes a biological impediment, and biology becomes further ammunition for social blame. Recognising this interplay is essential. Mental health is not a peripheral concern in fertility care, it is a central determinant of reproductive health. Until emotional well-being is treated with the same seriousness as hormonal assays and ultrasound scans, the gap between what science knows and what society believes will continue to widen, to the detriment of the very people seeking to build families. The consequences of this emotional burden extend even further when couples enter the realm of infertility treatment. Assisted reproductive technologies are often portrayed as purely biomedical solutions, yet their success is intimately tied to psychological wellbeing. Chronic stress – fuelled by stigma, family pressure, financial strain, and the relentless expectation to conceive – can disrupt hormonal regulation, impair ovulation, and interfere with the body's responsiveness to treatment protocols.

Pressures of treatment

Research consistently shows that heightened anxiety and depressive symptoms are associated with lower success rates in procedures such as IVF. The monthly cycle of hope, hyper-vigilance, and disappointment compound this stress, creating a physiological environment that is less conducive to conception.

The pressures of infertility treatment also reshape the most intimate dimensions of a couple's relationship. What is ordinarily an expression of desire, connection, or spontaneity can become tightly choreographed around ovulation windows, clinic schedules, and medical directives. Many couples describe sex during treatment as increasingly mechanical – an obligation rather than an act of intimacy.

This can erode relational closeness. Over time, the emotional strain can dampen libido, heighten anxiety, and create a sense of detachment between partners. Ironically, the very effort to conceive can undermine the relational and psychological conditions that support healthy sexual functioning.

Recognising this dynamic is crucial. Fertility treatment is not only a medical journey but a relational one. Without compassionate support that acknowledges the toll on intimacy, couples may find themselves navigating not only the challenges of infertility but also the quiet erosion of the connection that once anchored their partnership.

The path forward

India stands at a crossroads. The science is clear, the human cost undeniable, and yet our cultural narratives remain stubbornly unchanged.

The first step forward is cultural honesty. We must finally sever the idea that womanhood is validated through motherhood. As long as society treats fertility as a measure of virtue, women will continue to pay with their dignity, their mental health, and in many cases, their biological chances of conceiving. Equally urgent is the need to bring men into the centre of the conversation. The data shows that male mental health directly affects fertility, yet patriarchal norms keep men silent, unexamined, and emotionally unsupported.

Clinics, too, must evolve. Mental health support cannot remain a decorative add-on to reproductive care. It must be embedded into every stage of assessment and treatment. Screening for anxiety, depression, and relational strain should be as routine as semen analysis or hormone testing. When emotional wellbeing is treated as essential, outcomes improve – not just medically, but humanely. Finally, couples need support that protects their relationships from the corrosive pressures of treatment. Infertility should not be allowed to hollow out intimacy or turn partnership into performance.

The way forward is not complicated – it is simply long overdue. We must replace stigma with science, silence with dialogue, and blame with compassion. Only then can fertility care in India move from being a site of quiet suffering to one of dignity, equity, and genuine healing.

(Rashikkha Ra. Iyer is a multidisciplinary clinician working in the U.K., specialising in the delivery of clinical interventions in forensic settings. Rashikkha.RaIyer@outlook.com)

THE HEALTH QUIZ

Please send in your answers to health@thehindu.co.in

Despite centuries of research, the brain continues to remain the most mysterious of organs in the human body. Here is a quiz testing your knowledge about the important organ and how to care for it?

Zubeda Hamid

QUESTION 1
What is the human brain primarily made of? This comprises about 60% of the brain, with the remaining 40% being protein, carbohydrates, salt and water.

QUESTION 2
We all know about grey matter and white matter in the central nervous system. In your spinal cord, which matter is on the outside, and which is inside?

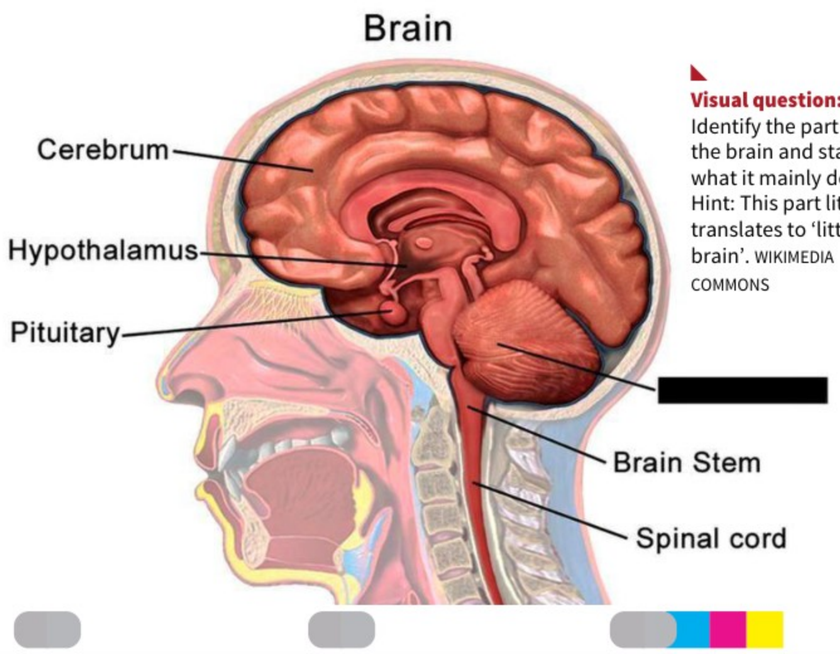
QUESTION 3
Is the following statement true or false? Walnuts are good for brain health and can also help improve memory.

QUESTION 4
Which daily hygiene ritual that many of us skip is believed to reduce the risk of stroke?

QUESTION 5
Looking after which of your organs, besides the brain, is one of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of dementia?

QUESTION 6
Take a guess as to how many neurons the brain is believed to have: a) Over 100 billion b) Between 40 and 50 billion c) Between 80 and 90 billion

QUESTION 7
Is the following statement true or false? The brain's ability to change stops with age.



Visual question: Identify the part of the brain and state what it mainly does. Hint: This part literally translates to 'little brain'. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Answers to previous edition's quiz: 1. Which virus is most often the culprit behind your common cold? **Ans: Rhinoviruses** 2. After a viral infection, some people contract _____, a condition in which the airways of the lungs get inflamed. **Ans: Acute bronchitis** 3. Paracetamol is commonly used as a fever reliever and to manage symptoms of winter infections. What is the safe dosage for adults in a 24-hour period? **Ans:Adults can take two 500mg tablets, 4 times in 24 hours. You must wait at least 4 hours between doses** 4. True or False: Cold air kills viruses. **Ans: False** 5. Pneumonia is a common winter infections. Which part of the lungs does it affect? **Ans: Air sacs or alveoli** 6. The influenza virus causes the flu, and people often contract it in winter. Influenza viruses A, B and C are the common viruses behind the flu. Is the flu contagious? **Ans: Yes** 7. RSV is a common virus, usually mild, causing cold-like symptoms. Immunity from contracting this infection does not last, so people can get it more than once. What is the full form of RSV? **Ans: Respiratory syncytial virus** 8. Which vitamin is more useful to help prevent winter illnesses? Ans: Vitamin D Visual: Black pepper, commonly used as a home remedy to soothe symptoms of stuffy noses and sore throats. What is the active compound in it that helps, called? **Ans: Piperine**
Winners: C. Saravanan | Tamal Biswas | Manda Venkata Apparao

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ಮಹಾತ್ಮರನ್ನೇ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡ ನುಂಗಪ್ಪಗಳು !

ಸಿದ್ದಪ್ಪ , ರಾಗಪ್ಪ , ಮಲ್ಲಪ್ಪ ಹಾಗೂ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ನುಂಗಪ್ಪಗಳಿರ,
ನನ್ನ ಹೆಸರಲ್ಲಿ 60 ವರ್ಷ ಲೂಟಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಲ್ಲದೇ,
ನನ್ನ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಸ್ವರಾಜ್ಯ ಕನಸು ನನಸಾಗಿಸಲು
ಮೋದಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದಿರುವ
VB-G RAM G ಯೋಜನೆ ಕುರಿತು
ಅಪಪ್ರಚಾರ ಮಾಡ್ತಿರಾ?

ಶ್ರಮಿಕರ ಬದುಕಿಗೆ ಭರವಸೆ ವಿಬಿ-ಜಿ ರಾಮ್ ಜಿ

Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)

ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಮತ್ತು ನ್ಯಾಯಯುತ ವೇತನ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಹಕ್ಕು ಎಂದು ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು 100 ರಿಂದ 125 ದಿನಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ

ವಿಬಿ-ಜಿ ರಾಮ್ ಜಿ ಅಡಿ ಹದಿನೈದು ದಿನದೊಳಗೆ ಡಿಬಿಟಿ ಮೂಲಕ ವೇತನ ಪಾವತಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಮನ್ರೇಗಾದಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಂಗಳಾನುಗಟ್ಟಲೆ ವೇತನ ಪಾವತಿಯಾಗುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ

ಗ್ರಾಮ ಸಭೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಧಾರವಾಗಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗಳ ಮೂಲಕವೇ ಕೆಲಸಗಳು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತವೆ

ಬಯೋಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಹಾಜರಾತಿ, ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಆಧಾರಿತ ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆ, AI ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್, GPS ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಭ್ರಷ್ಟಾಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಕಡಿವಾಣ ಹಾಕಲಾಗಿದೆ

ನಿಗದಿತ ಸಮಯದೊಳಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸಿಗದಿದ್ದರೆ ನಿರುದ್ಯೋಗ ಭತ್ಯೆ ಪಾವತಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ

ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧೀಜಿಯವರ ರಾಮರಾಜ್ಯದ ಕನಸನ್ನು ವಿಬಿ-ಜಿ ರಾಮ್ ಜಿ ಮೂಲಕ ನನಸು ಮಾಡುವುದೇ ಮೋದಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಂಕಲ್ಪವಾಗಿದೆ

➤ ನಕಲಿ ಗಾಂಧಿಗಳಿಂದ ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧೀಜಿ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಅವಮಾನ

➤ ಮಹಾತ್ಮರು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದು ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ ನಂತರ 'ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಪಕ್ಷವನ್ನು ವಿಸರ್ಜಿಸಿ ' ಆದರೆ ನುಂಗಪ್ಪಗಳು ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ಸನ್ನೇ ' ಬಂಡವಾಳ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡರು !

➤ ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಅವರ ಕನಸು ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ್ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದಿದ್ದು ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಮೋದಿಜಿ

ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧೀಜಿ ಅವರ "ಗ್ರಾಮ ಸ್ವರಾಜ್ಯ" ಕನಸನ್ನು
"ವಿಬಿ-ಜಿ ರಾಮ್ ಜಿ" ಮೂಲಕ ನನಸಾಗಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ಶ್ರೀ ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಮೋದಿಜಿ ಅವರಿಂದ ದೃಢ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ

Published by: Bharatiya Janata Party, Karnataka

BMRCL announces zone-wise fare revision from February 9

Under the new revision, fares will increase by a minimum of ₹1 and a maximum of ₹5 on the entire metro network

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) announced a zone-wise fare revision effective from February 9, under its Annual Automatic Fare Revision mechanism. The revised structure brings a marginal increase of ₹1 to ₹5 across 10 fare zones, with fares recaliberated based on distance slabs across the Namma Metro network.

In a release issued on Thursday, the BMRCL said that the decision follows the recommendations of the First Fare Fixation Committee (FFC) constituted under the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002. The committee had examined the financial sustainability of metro operations and the impact of past fare revisions on commuters. According to the release, the FFC observed that the previous fare revision, carried out after a gap of seven and a half years, along with the optimisation of fare zones from 29 to 10, had resulted in an average fare increase of 51.55%, triggering widespread commuter dissatisfaction. To prevent a repeat of such sharp hikes, the committee recommended a transparent Annual Automatic Fare Revision Formula, linked either to operating and maintenance (O&M) costs or capped at 5% per annum, whichever is lower, with fares rounded off to the nearest rupee.

Revised fare

The corporation has also assured commuters that all existing discounts will continue.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Fare Zone	Distance slab (km)	Existing fare (₹)	Revised fare(₹)
F1	0–2	10.00	11.00
F2	2–4	20.00	21.00
F3	4–6	30.00	32.00
F4	6–8	40.00	42.00
F5	8–10	50.00	53.00
F6	10–15	60.00	63.00
F7	15–20	70.00	74.00
F8	20–25	80.00	84.00
F9	25–30	90.00	95.00
F10	>30	90.00	95.00

Recommendations

The BMRCL clarified that although audited financial data shows a 10.20% increase in costs based on a comparison of financial years 2024-25 and 2023-24, the fare hike has been restricted to 5%, in line with the FFC's stipulation. "In keeping with the recommendations of the FFC, which are binding on the BMRCL, the Annual Automatic Fare Revision mechanism will be implemented with effect from February 9, on the expiry of one year from the implementation of the FFC's recommended fares on February 9, 2025," the release said.

The BMRCL also assured commuters that all existing discounts will continue. Smart card and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) users will receive a 5% discount during peak hours, 10% during non-peak hours, and 10% on Sundays and three designated national holidays. The annual increase of 5% shall also be applicable on Tourist Cards/Group Tickets.

500 elevators, 1,000 escalators to be installed in metro stations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With daily ridership touching around one million, efficient circulation within stations has emerged as a critical operational priority, especially during peak hours. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) will deploy around 500 elevators and nearly 1,000 escalators across its expanding metro network as part of efforts to strengthen passenger safety and ensure smooth commuter movement.

Speaking at the second edition of Smart Lift & Mobility World 2026 here on Thursday, BMRCL Director (operations and maintenance) Sumit Bhatnagar said, "The large-scale deployment of vertical mobility systems reflects the changing demands of a rapidly expanding metro system and growing ridership in the city."

The Namma Metro network, which currently spans about 96 km with 83 stations, is set to expand to nearly 175 km with around 127 stations over the next two years.

Nearly 78 km of metro corridors are currently under construction across Bengaluru, significantly increasing the requirement for elevators, escalators and travelators, particularly at interchange stations and other high-footfall locations, according to Mr. Bhatnagar.

"As the metro network grows, managing passenger movement within stations becomes as important as train operations. In the next phase, we will be operating an inventory of around 500 elevators and close to 1,000 escalators, along with travelators at select stations, to improve safety and ensure seamless movement for commuters," Mr. Bhatnagar said.

With daily ridership touching around one million, efficient circulation within stations has emerged as a critical operational priority, especially during peak hours.

Mr. Bhatnagar said that the advanced elevator and escalator technologies play a key role in enhancing safety and accessibility, particularly for senior citizens, persons with disabilities and passengers carrying luggage.

Court cannot examine correctness of route for metro line, says HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that it is for the authorities concerned to determine the route for metro rail, the High Court of Karnataka has declined to examine the issue raised in a PIL petition about correctness of changing the route of the proposed Orange line metro, between Kempapura in Hebbal and J.P. Nagar 4th phase, to pass through Nagarbhavi Circle.

"We do not consider it apposite to entertain a public interest litigation for examining the route of a metro line. It is for the authorities concerned to determine the same. The determination of the route of a metro line would require consideration of various factors including the number of commuters it would serve," said a Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha.

The Bench passed the order while disposing of the petition filed by Nagarbhavi Property Owners' and Business Establishments' Welfare Association. However, considering that the petitioner has annexed a report (Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment) regarding the impact on the environment, if the metro line passes through the Nagarabhavi Circle as per the present plan, the Bench asked the State, Centre and Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation to consider the representation. It had sought a direction from the court to continue the original plan of constructing metro rail on Outer Ring Road from Dwaraka Nagar station to Chowdeshwari Nagar station, instead of deviating from Nagarabhavi Circle to Summanhalli Cross via Vinayaka Layout, Papireddypalya and Nagarbhavi BDA complex, which causes chopping of more than 600 trees, demolition of residential and commercial buildings.

HC stays order allowing free access through Somanahalli toll plaza for local residents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Division Bench of the High Court of Karnataka on Thursday stayed the verdict of a single judge, who had directed the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to issue free resident passes, without levy of any toll or user fee, to the local residents, living in nearby areas, for daily unrestricted use of the Somanahlli toll plaza on Bengaluru-Kanakapura stretch of National Highway (NH)-209.

A view of the Somanahalli Toll Plaza in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

The Bench, comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha, passed the interim order on an appeal filed by the NHAI, challenging the January 28 judgment of the single judge. The stay order would be in force till April 23, the next date of hearing on the appeal.

During the hearing, the counsel for the NHAI said that the toll plaza was already operational, and the local residents were refusing to pay the toll citing the single judge's order. Also, the counsel for the NHAI cited apex court's judgments on collection of user fee at toll plazas situated in municipal limits.

The single judge had declared that operationalising a plaza within 10 km from municipal limits is contrary to the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, even though the toll plaza was outside municipal limits when it was approved.

Also, the single judge had given 30 days to the NHAI to issue passes for people residing in the nearby areas on verification of their residency while making it clear that user fee collection should be stopped and the Somanahalli toll paza should be shifted beyond 10 km from city limits if the NHAI failed to complete process of issuance of free passes within 30 days.

The single judge had said that use of cars by locals can no more be treated as a luxury by pointing out that people nowadays use cars to access essential services on a daily basis.

Case against man attempting to defraud former SC judge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police have launched a search for a cyber fraudster, who posed as an officer with the city cybercrime cell, called a former judge of the Supreme Court, attempting to threaten him that a mobile number registered in his name was being misused. The complaint was received through a post at the Office of the Commissioner of Police by Bharat Parashar, Secretary General of the Supreme Court. According to the complaint, on January 9, 2026, at around 3.05 p.m., J. Chelameswar, former judge of the Supreme Court of India, got a call. The caller impersonated as an officer from the Bengaluru cybercrime cell and attempted to intimidate him by stating that mobile number registered under his name was being misused in the name of the government. The complainant hassoughtlegal action against the person involved. Based on the complaint, the police have registered a case. In July last year, the Central Division cybercrime police registered a case against two unidentified cyber fraudsters, who, posed as legal consultants from the Data Protection Board of India, allegedly tried to intimidate Upa Lokayukta K.N. Phaneendra with a fake case, in what seemed to be a possible extortion bid.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, FEB. 06
RISE 06:45 SET 18:22
RISE 22:17 SET 09:40

SATURDAY, FEB. 07
RISE 06:45 SET 18:23
RISE 23:05 SET 10:16

SUNDAY, FEB. 08
RISE 06:44 SET 18:23
RISE 23:55 SET 10:54

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	32	18
Bengaluru	29	17

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool.

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THE HINDU
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Hoax bomb threat to Italian and Japanese consulates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Italian and Japanese consulates in Bengaluru received hoax bomb threat emails from the same email id on January 29.

While security agencies swung into action and carried out anti-sabotage checks, both turned out to be a hoax. Officials from both consulates lodged complaints, based on which the Ulsoor and Vidhana Soudha police have registered separate cases.

According to the complaint, Giandomenico Milano, 45, the Consul General of the Italian Consulate, located on Richmond Road, reported the incident through the consulate's Security Officer, Cosimo Ciciriello. The complaint was physically submitted at the police station on January 30. The consulate received an email on January 29 at 5.25 a.m., to their official IDs, which warned: "5 RDX to blast in Italy Consulate, Bengaluru at 1 PM. Evacuate Diplomats by 10 AM!"

The Japanese consulate received a similar email from the same email ID at 5.32 a.m. The Vidhana Soudha police initially registered a non-cognizable case and later obtained due permission from the 41st Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate court and registered an FIR.

Doctors treat Syrian patient despite language barrier

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Doctors at the State-run Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research faced a communication challenge last week while treating a 65-year-old woman from Syria who spoke only Arabic.

The patient, brought to the institute by a non-governmental organisation for treatment of cardiac ailments, was unable to communicate in any other language. To understand her medical history and symptoms, doctors recorded her responses and used mobile phone-based translation tools to translate her statements into English. Institute Director B. Dinesh told *The Hindu* that the patient came with chest pain and breathlessness and was diagnosed with severe triple-vessel coronary artery disease along with complete heart block. "Language was a major barrier. Our team had to translate almost every word she spoke to understand her condition," he said.

She was initially evaluated at Charaka Hospital in Shivajinagar before being referred to Jayadeva Institute by Active Bengaluru Foundation.

The patient underwent the procedure last week and was discharged in stable condition on Wednesday. The treatment was provided free of cost with support from donor agencies and non-governmental organisations. The remaining expenses were borne by the institute, Dr. Dinesh added.

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Ukrainian soldiers killed in the Russian invasion of Ukraine

55,000 The number of Ukrainian soldiers killed on the battlefield as a result of the country's war with Russia is estimated at 55,000, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Wednesday. He added that on top of that casualty figure was a "large number of people" considered officially missing. REUTERS

Number of deaths in the U.S. from wildfire smoke from 2006-20

24,100 A paper, in the journal *Science Advances*, found that from 2006 to 2020, long-term exposure to tiny particulates from wildfire smoke contributed to an average of 24,100 deaths a year in the lower 48 states. Long-term exposure can lead to a range of chronic and deadly health issues. AP

India's payment to UN Regular Budget for 2026

35.18 In dollar million. India has paid $35.18 million to the UN Regular Budget for 2026, joining the "honour roll" of 47 Member states who have paid their regular budget dues in full to the world body on time. The UN Committee on Contributions said that 47 Member states have paid their regular budget assessments in full. PTI

Number of Indian based orgs' websites seized by U.S.

200 U.S. federal authorities have seized more than 200 website domains tied to an India-based transnational criminal organisation having illegal online pharmacies. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration field offices throughout the country also conducted multiple operations leading to the arrest of four individuals, it said in a statement. PTI

Public grievances received against the Centre and State

22 in lakh. These public grievances against Union Ministries/departments and State/Union territories governments were received during 2024-25 through a dedicated CPGRAMS portal. The government has undertaken a comprehensive set of measures to reduce grievance pendency. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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DISCOMs and the road ahead

DISCOMs show improvement in performance, recording a positive turnaround marked by reduced AT&C losses, a narrowed ACS-ARR gap and improved financial discipline; however, many utilities continue to rely on tariff subsidies and loss takeovers by State governments, underscoring the scope for further improvement

EXPLAINER

T. Ramakrishnan

Better days seem to be ahead for the country's electricity sector, especially power distribution utilities, including power departments, commonly known as DISCOMs.

For long, DISCOMs, now numbering 72 across the country (44 State-owned, 16 private-sector entities, and 12 power departments), had presented a grim picture with never-declining line losses, also called Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, and the consequent widening gap between the Average Cost of Supply (ACS) and the Average Revenue Realised (ARR). Between 2020-21 and 2024-25, accumulated losses rose from ₹5.5 lakh crore to ₹6.47 lakh crore, with outstanding debt increasing to ₹7.26 lakh crore. Non-cost-reflective tariffs and delayed payment of State subsidies were among the factors that contributed to this state of affairs.

A legacy of losses

As far as India is concerned, DISCOMs and losses have become synonymous, forcing specialists to use the prefix "minus" whenever a power utility's ARR exceeds its ACS. One may argue that loss-making is a legacy matter, as these power utilities – in their previous 'avatar', State Electricity Boards (SEBs), formed under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 – were mostly in the red. But what was overlooked, even then and now, was that Section 59 of the law had originally required SEBs to make a profit of three or more per cent, as specified by State governments.

Signs of a turnaround

Even though many DISCOMs are struggling to cope with chronic issues, several others have begun improving their performance perceptibly in the wake of steps taken by various stakeholders, including those of the Union government. A Survey revealed that DISCOMs recorded a positive Profit After Tax (PAT) of ₹ 2,701 crore in the financial year 2024-25, marking "a decisive turnaround" from a loss of ₹67,962 crore in 2013-14. This improvement was accompanied by a reduction in AT&C losses from 22.62% to 15.04 % during the years in question. Further, the ACS-ARR gap (on an accrual basis) came down from 78 paise per unit (kilowatt-hour) to 0.06 paise per unit, signalling much improved cost recovery.

In mid-January, the Union government also made public the performance details of DISCOMs for the financial year that ended March 31, 2025. Claiming credit for the financial turnaround, the government attributed it to several measures, including the implementation of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), amendments to the Electricity Rules, and the introduction of the Late Payment Surcharge Rules.

The RDSS's objective is to improve the quality and reliability of power through a financially sustainable and operationally efficient distribution sector, with the release of funds linked to the execution of necessary measures. The effective implementation of the Rules has helped utilities arrest the mounting surcharges on legacy dues, as it allows DISCOMs to clear their dues through a maximum of 48 equated monthly instalments (EMIs).

Discipline and debt reduction

Prior to the Rules coming into force, delays and non-payments by DISCOMs had made it difficult for generators to pay for the fuel, which had to be prepaid, to continue generation, apart from having to pay the Railways in advance for the rakes.

When the Rules came into force on June 3, 2022, outstanding legacy dues totalled ₹1,39,947 crore. Since then, utilities in 13 States and Union Territories paid ₹ 1,31,942 crore till December 2025 through 39 EMIs, prepayments, and reconciliations. In January 2026, the dues went down further to ₹ 4,927 crore, with DISCOMs largely paying their current dues on time, reflecting a marked improvement in sectoral financial discipline.

Yet, not everything is rosy. Many DISCOMs, if not most, have been able to achieve the turnaround, essentially due to tariff subsidies received from and the takeover of losses by their respective governments. For instance, in the case of Tamil Nadu, during 2024-25, the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPDCL), the successor to the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO), received ₹15,772 crore as tariff subsidy and ₹16,107 crore towards the takeover of losses. In fact, the utility recorded a profit (after tax) of ₹2,073 crore only after receiving the State government's largesse. But for the takeover of losses, TNPDCL had registered a loss of ₹14,034 crore, according to the findings of the 14th Integrated Rating Exercise conducted by the Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) under a framework approved by the Union Ministry of Power. The findings were released in late January 2026.

Take the case of Rajasthan: Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited (JDVVNL), which, according to PFC's assessment, improved its showing during 2024-25 compared to the past. This utility recorded a profit of ₹92 crore, but this was after the receipt of ₹ 11,625 crore towards tariff subsidy and ₹ 2,540 crore towards loss takeover.

Besides, even the present position of DISCOMs enjoying revenue surplus appears to be transient, because when the utilities may have to effect pay revision for employees in a few years, the probability of them slipping back to square one – revenue deficit – is quite high.

The way forward

Still, the emphasis on government support, which is nothing new, is not to be viewed as taking away the credit for DISCOMs for enhanced performance. However, there is still scope for further improvement. At present, feeder segregation works, taken up in States such as Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Maharashtra with large rural or agricultural consumer bases separating feeders for agricultural use from non-agricultural use, should be extended to other States such as Tamil Nadu, where an unmetered power supply to the farm sector has been the norm. Only then will there be data, closer to the real picture, regarding the quantum of power supplied to agriculturists.

As Niti Aayog noted in its August 2021 study on the distribution sector, DISCOMs should be proactive in promoting the use of solar pumps in agriculture, a move that would lead to a significant decrease in power procurement costs. The political executive must resist the temptation to offer free electricity universally to domestic consumers or any other category, as economically stronger sections of society invariably benefit disproportionately by any such measure. Political will, combined with public-spirited bureaucracy, can easily transform the face of DISCOMs into that of viable and consumer-friendly entities.

Call for change: Political will, combined with public-spirited bureaucracy, can easily transform the face of DISCOMs into that of viable and consumer-friendly entities. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Even though many DISCOMs are struggling to cope with chronic issues, several others have begun improving their performance

THE GIST

- DISCOMs record a decisive turnaround, with reduced AT&C losses, a sharply narrowed ACS-ARR gap and improved cost recovery following reforms and rule changes.
- Financial discipline improves, as legacy dues decline, current payments are largely made on time and mounting surcharges are arrested through structured instalments.
- Government support remains central, with tariff subsidies and loss takeovers underpinning profits, even as scope for further improvement persists through feeder segregation and efficiency measures.

On the grid

The table presents an assessment of select States based on key operational and financial parameters, including AT&C losses, accumulated surplus or deficit, and the ACS-ARR gap for 2023-24 and 2024-25

State	AT&C loss (in %)		Accumulated Surplus / -Deficit (₹ in crore)		ACS-ARR gap* (₹ per kilo watt per hour or unit) (-:deficit)	
	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25
Assam	14.03	15.44	-1,324	-1,028	0.22	0.26
Manipur	13.41	12.90	-295	- 290	0.45	0.20
Bihar	20.32	15.51	-18,529	-16,526	0.18	0.41
Uttar Pradesh						
State sector	16.39	19.54	-90,039	-1,00,858	-0.55	-0.73
Private sector	7.75	8.48	1,426	1,561	0.57	0.15
Punjab	10.96	19.21	-9,620	-3,404	0.20	0.30
Rajasthan	22.13	15.18	-91,565	-90,303	-0.31	0.04
Gujarat						
State sector	8.97	8.25	5,165	7,355	0.58	0.40
Private sector	3.92	3.63	2,823	3,892	-0.14	0.42
Maharashtra						
State sector	23.86	17.69	-36,226	-35,671	-0.28	-0.56
Private sector	5.39	4.99	474	1,245	0.99	2.04
Madhya Pradesh	22.89	22.76	-69,506	-71,394	-0.18	0.04
Chhattisgarh	15.88	14.25	-10,016	-10,423	0.20	0.19
Jharkhand	30.51	28.19	-18,512	-20,512	-1.66	-0.95
West Bengal						
State sector	17.13	17.17	158	174	-0.17	-0.03
Private sector	4.64	4.77	197	205	-0.13	0.30
Odisha**	19.59	17.81	824	1,263	-0.10	-0.18
Telangana	19.01	19.84	-67,276	-69,741	-0.75	-0.27
Karnataka	11.89	11.92	-26,109	-34,980	-1.08	-0.69
Kerala	7.44	6.61	-37,543	-38,648	-0.42	-0.17
Andhra Pradesh	12.05	7.87	-29,210	-29,420	-0.34	0.15
Tamil Nadu	11.39	10.96	-1,66,944	-1,19,153	-0.11	0.18
ALL INDIA	15.97	15.04	6,91,416	6,47,210	0.20	0.06

AT&C - Aggregate Technical and Commercial *__ACS__ - Average Cost of Supply | __ARR__ - Average Revenue Realised, which covers tariff subsidy received basis but without regulatory income and UDAY grant | **where all the discoms belong to the private sector

Source: 14th Annual Integrated Rating & Ranking of Power Distribution Utilities, Power Finance Corporation

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform and notify the General Public that, my client Ms. Rimjim authorised representative of M/s. Max Global Developers, at No.444, Grand, 3rd Floor,16th cross, 5th Main, HSR layout, Sector-6, Bangalore 560 102, had lost/misplaced the File, which was containing original Sale Deed, dated 13.06.1961 executed by Sri. A.G. Ramaiah Reddy S/o Sri. Gundappa, in favour of Sri. A. Nagappa Reddy, registered as Document No. 1247/1961-62, stored in Book-I, Volume 247, Pages 37-39, in the office of sub registrar, Bangalore South Taluk.The above document is pertaining to property bearing Sy.No.35 measuring 2 Acre 25.08 Guntas, duly converted for non-agricultural commercial purposes vide Order of The Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, bearing No. ALN(EVH) SR 368/2007-08, Dated:20/05/2008, Doddakannelli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk (earlier Bangalore South Taluk). Hence, Ms. Rimjim has lodged a Lost Report dated: 03/02/2026 vide above Lost Report with HSR Police Station, Bengaluru City and obtained computer generated acknowledgments being issued in favour of M/s. MAX GLOBAL DEVELOPERS. The finder/s is/are hereby requested to return the aforesaid original document if found to the undersigned forthwith and of any person found dealing with the aforesaid original document would be dealt in accordance with Law.

ROOPA SHETTY, Advocate
Lex Situs, No.810, 'BILWAPRIYA PLATINA', 2nd Floor,
27th Main Road, HSR Layout, Sector 1, Bangalore - 560102.
Phone: 9902026199,8088731020; E-mail: info@lexsitus.com

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES BANGALORE

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Email: eo@uasbangalore.edu.in Website:www.uasbangalore.edu.in

No. EO/SPO/e-Proc/16/2025-26 **Date:02-02-2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per the Standard tender document KG-1, and KG-2, from the reputed firms for the procurement of Equipment's.

Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date and time for uploading the tender **on 16-02-2026 up to 4.00 p.m.** The Technical bid will be opened **on 18-02-2026 at 10.30 a.m.** The Financial bid will be opened **on 21-02-2026 at 10.30 a.m.** in the Tender Committee room of Estate Office. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours and also refer UAS Website: **www.uasbangalore.edu.in** Help Desk- 91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 support@eprochelpdesk.com. The University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/-
ESTATE OFFICER

DIPR/CP/JA/5447/2025-26

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Horamavu Division,
Jayanthi Nagara Circle, Horamavu Main Road,
Horamavu, Bengaluru - 560 113

Tend No: BECC/EE/HRM/TN/03/2025-26 Date: 05.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two Cover System)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) Horamavu division invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below.

Sl. No.	Description
1.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains and other allied works in Chellakere Ward & Hoaramvu Ward in K.R.Pura Constituency under GOK Grants 2025-26. **Project Cost : Rs. 700.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.14,700.00**
2.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Comprehensive Development of Arterial & Sub arterial Roads, Drains and Footpath Development, other allied works in Horamavu division, Agara Babusapalya main road from ORR till Agara Railway Track, Kristu Jayanthi College road from K Narayanapura Cross (Hennur Bagalur Main Road) till Hanumanthegowda Circle & HAL Division Kaggadasapura main road from Indeera Canteen till railway level Crossing road in K.R.Pura Assembly Constituency under GOK Grants 2025-26 **Project Cost : Rs. 1210.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.24,200.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender Document may be downloaded through KPP portal from : **07.02.2026 (2)** Pre-bid Meeting : **11.02.2026, 11.30 AM** Office of the Executive Engineer Horamavu Division, Jayanthi nagara Circle, Horamavu Main Road, Horamavu, Bengaluru - 560 113 **(3)** Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders : **16.02.2026 up to 4:00 PM (4)** Opening of Technical bid : **17.02.2026 at 4:30 PM**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Horamavu Division, Zone-2, BECC

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Venkatesh S and Gouthami Patil, residents of Renuka Nagar, Ballari have changed my son name from KOUSHIK to KAUSHIK NANDAN. Hence he shall be called as KAUSHIK NANDAN for all the purposes.

I, JC 193341K EX-Sub/AEC Javaran Maran, S/o Late Javaran, R/a No.1741, Amogha, 25th D Cross, 20th Main, HSR Layout, Sector-2, Bangalore -560102, hereby declare that I have changed my name from Javaran Maran to Javarappa Maran vide affidavit dt: 25.07.2025 sworn before Notary N.Narayana Swamy, B'lore.

I, hitherto Known As Satyajeet Srivastava S/o Kishor Kumar Srivastava Residing At 3rd Cross, Sri Lakshmi Nivasa, Gubbi Town Maruthi Nagar, Vtc: Gubbi, Tumakuru, Karnataka-572216 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Satyjit Srivastav.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, BHUVAN K.L., S/o Lakshmipathi K.M., residing at #180, Hirekogaluru Village, Channagiri Taluk, Davanagere District, Karnataka - 577552, do hereby notify that my Date of Birth has been erroneously recorded as 24/08/2008 in my school records. My actual and correct Date of Birth is 24/08/2007 as per my Birth Certificate. I am making this declaration to correct my Date of Birth in my academic and official records. Affidavit sworn before Notary Public at Davanagere on 31-01-2026.

RENTAL

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client is intending to purchase all that piece and parcel of the land and building bearing Municipal No. 4, BBMP Khatha No. 5015/39/1/4, E-PID No. 7119024320, situated at Hebbala Kempapura, 18th 'A' Cross Road, Dasarahalli Main Road, Dasarahalli, Bangalore, (earlier formed in Property No. 39/1, Dasarahalli Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk) measuring East to West 58 feet and North to South 40 feet, totally measuring 2320 square feet, Bangalore, Ward No. 6 (Thanisandra) together with the commercial building existing thereon comprising of stilt floor measuring 1900 square feet, ground floor measuring 1900 square feet, first floor measuring 1900 square feet, second floor measuring 1900 square feet, third floor measuring 1900 square feet and fourth floor measuring 1900 square feet of super built-up area, bounded on:-

East by : Property belongs to Mr. James West by : Road, North by : Site No.3, South by : Site No. 5.

from its present owner M/S. MOSAIC LEISURES PRIVATE LIMITED, a Company Incorporated under the Companies Act 1956, with its registered Office at: E-3/240, Arera Colony, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh-462016 represented by its Director MR. ANKUR SHARMA son of Mr. Jagdish Prasad Sharma.

Any person/s or institutions/s or statutory authority having any Claim/s or Objection/s in respect of the above property may file the same along with necessary documents with the undersigned within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no claim/s or objections/s is / are received by the undersigned within time stated above, our Client will proceed further as the property is free from all claim/s and objection/s.

P.N. GOWDA & ASSOCIATES, Advocates
No. 414, 6th Cross, Sadashivanagar
Bangalore - 560 080.
Phone : 9880310058 / 9663020901
9036914200

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER

(only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer, (Central) 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bengaluru-560 009

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
(WWM) CV-2	BWSSB/EE (WWM)CV-2/ PB/ 576/ 2025-26 Date: 31.01.2026	Rs. 61,23,980/- / Rs. 1,22,480/-	13.02.2026 Upto 4.00 P.M.	16.02.2026 after 4.10 P.M.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM)CV-2

The details regarding the tender & participation in the e-Procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/DD-C.P/5443/KSMCA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF GOA

DEPARTMENT OF PRINTING AND STATIONERY
PANAJI-GOA

TENDER NOTICE

(E-Tendering with e-payment mode only)

No. 7/31/2022-GPS/607 **Dated: 05/02/2026**

1. **Tender document for Empanelment of Vendors for Supply of Stationery Items to Government Departments in the State of Goa.**

Tender Schedule:

2. The last date for on-line submission of tender is **24/02/2026 upto 4.00 pm.**
3. The date and time of opening of on-line tender relating to Technical Bid is **27/02/2026 at 3.00 pm.**

For all participation & other details visit e-tendering website: https://e-procure.goa.gov.in

Sd/-
(Vivek K. Naik)

DI/ADVT/2307/2026

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH

Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division
1st Floor, Zilla Panchayat Buidling, S. Kariyappa Road
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple), Bangalore-560070

No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/38/2025-26 Dated: 05.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (through KPPP Portal only) (Two COVER SYSTEM)

Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For **APA Grants** works. The works details can obtained from the KPPP Website The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **Dated: 13.02.2026 upto 4.00 pm.** Further details can be obtained from website at **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division
Bangalore Urban Dist.,Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/5463/SA/2025-26

Karnataka State

Office of the Executive Engineer, Shimoga Division, Shimoga

No.EE/PWD/Smg/AE-1/IFT-54/2025-26 Dtd:05-02-2026

Short Term Tender Notification -2 Cover system

Tender invited thro' E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in for the below Indents by PWD Class-3 & 4 above Contractors For needful information please contact Office P.No. 08182-274942 and Helpdesk Ph Nos. 080-25501216/ 080-25501227)

All Contractors

5054-80-190-0-01-132 KRDCL Capital Expenditure-SH Bridges
1. Shikaripura Taluk 1 Work (I.No:32326)
5054-80-190-0-01-132 KRDCL Capital Expenditure-MDR Bridges 2. Shikaripura Taluk 2 Works (I.No:32404, 32330)
3054-03-337-0-05-200 SH Maintenance
3. Shikaripura Taluk 1 Work (I.No:32997)
3054-04-337-1-10-200 MDR Maintenance
4 . Shikaripura Taluk 1 Work (I.No:33000)

Tender documents down loading & submission dates:
For all works Date:05-02-2026 to 13-02-2026. Work Complisation Period 9 Months (Including Mansoon) for I.No:32326 & 32404, 6 Months (Including for I.No:32330) & 1Month (Including Mansoon) for I.No32997 & 33000. If there any changes in published tenders it will be publishing in E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in Website only

Sd/-EE, PW Dept Division, Shimoga

DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/38/02/1770

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY

No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-01/55/2025-26/2555 Date: 05.02.2026

PUBLICATION

[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

Transact Construction Company Represented by Designated Partner **Sri. Vishwanath V S/o Krishna Venkatachalamurthy** has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Residential"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No.12/2 extent of 01Acre-35¾Guntas (Including 0Acre-1¾Gunta 'A' Kharab) of Krishnarajapura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru Talukunder Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for **Agriculture Zone** in approved Master Plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1. By developing the layout in the said lands, sites will be available at reasonable rates to General Public.
2. During the development works of the layout, there will be opportunity of employment of labourers.
3. Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the layout in the above said lands.
4. By planned layout the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, parks, etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/-
Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/5454/MAA /25-26

CAUVERI NEERAVARY NIGAMA LIMITED

(Govt of Karnataka Under taking)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
CNNL, HarangiCanal Division, SALIGRAMA-571604,
Dt:Mysore
Phone No: 08223 – 283338
No/EE/HCD/PB/Tender Notification-12/2025-26
1699 Date:28-01-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO.: 12/2025-26
Dated: 28-01-2026

(Through KPPP Portal Only)

Item Rate tenders are invited on e-procurement basis by the Executive Engineer, Harangi Canal Division, Saligrama, Saligrama Taluk, Mysuru District on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from eligible contractors for the following INDENT NO- CNNL/2025-26/CN/WORK_INDENT4257, for Rs.3.97 Crore. The contractors can have access/download e-procurement tender document from 03.02.2026 onwards, Pre bid Meeting on 06.02.2026 at 11.30 AM and last date to submit the filled tender document is 13.02.2026 till 4.00 PM. Technical bid will be opened 16.02.2026 at 4.30 PM onwards and Financial bid will be opened on after Approval of the Technical Bid. All the information is available on e-procurement portal web-site address https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in & can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Harangi Canal Division,
Saligrama, Mysore District - 571604

DIPR/DDMYS/1602/KSMCA/909/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that, our client intends to purchase the agricultural land measuring 1 acre 12 guntas including 2 guntas kharabh out of larger land measuring 5 acres 17 guntas inclusive of 14 guntas kharabh in Survey No 3/1 (block-II) situated at Krishnarajapura Village, Hesaragatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore, from Mr Gopalan Nair, which is morefully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the "**Schedule Property**".

Any person having any subsisting claim, right, title or interest, in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner including by way of sale, transfer, assignment, exchange, charge, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lease, sub-lease, license, mortgage, inheritance, share, gift, devise, lien, maintenance, easement, encumbrance, trust, covenant, possession, beneficial interest or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit or award passed by any Court or Authority, arbitrator, *lis-pendens*, power of attorney, bequest, FSI, development rights, partnership, family arrangement or settlement or otherwise encumbrance of any nature howsoever ("**Claim**"), are hereby requested to respond with documentary proof to the undersigned within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such Claim exists and if it existed, the claimant has relinquished such Claim and/or waived their right to exercise such Claim.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land measuring 1 acre 12 guntas including 2 guntas kharabh out of larger land measuring 5 acres 17 guntas inclusive of 14 guntas kharabh in Survey No 3/1 (block-II) situated at Krishnarajapura Village, Hesaragatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk and bounded on the: –

East by : Land in Survey No 3/2;
West by : Portion of lands in Survey Nos 3/1 and 5 belonging to Mr Gopalan Nair;
North by : Land in Survey No 2/3 belonging to Mr Parth Amin; and
South by : A portion of land in Survey No 3/1 belonging to Mr Gopalan Nair.

Dated this 6th day of February 2026

Rajiv Khaitan
Partner
Khaitan & Co LLP
Embassy Quest, 3rd Floor, 45/1, Magrath Road
Bengaluru - 560 025
T: +91 80 4339 7000

Delivery Mode : Speed Post / Dasti

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
EXTRA-ORDINARY APPELLATE JURISDICTION
Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No. 18482 OF 2023
WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELIEF

CHANDRA @ CHANDRAVATHI ...Petitioner
VERSUS
P SRINIVAS AND OTHERS ...Respondent

To,

1. **PADMAVATHI** W/o Seenappa, R/at Binnamangala, Old Madras Road, District-Bangalore, Karnataka 560002 — **PID: 208183/2025 FOR R[4] IN SLP(C) NO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)2**
2. **DS NAGARAJ** S/o DV Seetharaman, R/at No.3, 1st Floor Kaveri Apartments 2nd Block, 2nd Main Kalkeri Main Road, Ramamurthy Nagar Bengaluru 560016, District- Bangalore, Karnataka — **PID: 208184/2025 FOR R[7] IN SLP(C) NO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**
3. **K MAHENDRAN**, S/o M Krishna Raj. R/at No.852, 11th Cross 1st Stage, 3rd Block Brindavan Nagar, HBR Layout Bengaluru 560043, District-Bangalore, Karnataka — **PID: 208185/2025 FOR R[8] IN SLP(C) NO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**
4. **RAMACHANDRA**, R/at Halehalli Village Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk Presently Bengaluru East Taluk Bengaluru District, District-Bangalore, Karnataka — **PID: 208186/2025 FOR R[9] IN SLP(C) NO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**
5. **NAVEENA**, R/at No.12, Survey No.33, Sai Enclave, Halehalli Main Road Behind Hebron Bengaluru 560049, District-Bangalore, Karnataka. — **PID: 208187/2025 FOR R[12] SLP(C) NO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**
6. **LAKSHMAMMA** S/o Venkatappa, R/at No.38, Bilishivale Doddagubbi Post, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru 560001, District-Bangalore, Karnataka — **PID: 208188/2025 FOR R[13] IN SLPNO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**
7. **T PRASANNA** S/o Thulasiram, R/at No.50, 16th Cross Jaibharath Nagar, M S Nagar Bengaluru 560033, District-Bangalore, Karnataka — **PID: 208188/2025 FOR R[15] IN SLPNO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**
8. **KRAVICHANDRAN** S/o S S Kasiram, R/at No.11, 201 Cross, Egipura Main Road, Vivekanagar Post, Bengaluru 560047, District-Bangalore, Karnataka — **PID: 208188/2025 FOR R[16] IN SLPNO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**
9. **BME TRUST** Represented by its President KR Panikkar and Honorary Secretary Sri KK Raghavan. Represented by its President K R Panikkar and Honorary Secretary Sri K K Raghavan at 1/2 Krishna Reddy Colony Bomlur Layout Bengaru 560071. District-Bangalore, Karnataka. — **PID: 208191/2025 FOR R[18] IN SLPNO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**
10. **M ANANDAKUMAR** S/o Late K Muniswamappa, Residing at No.21/8, Ramakrishna Mutt Road Halasuru, Bengaluru 560008, District-Bangalore, Karnataka — **PID: 208191/2025 FOR R[19] IN SLP(C)NO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**
11. **GOVINDARAJ**, R/at Halchalli Village Bengaluru South Taluk, District-Bangalore, Karnataka — **PID: 208193/2025 FOR R[20] IN SLP(C)NO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**
12. **CN SRINIVASAN**, R/at No.18, 10th East Cross Road, Gangadhar Nagar, Vellor 632006 North Arcot District Tamil Nadu State, District, Tamil Nadu. — **PID: 208194/2025 FOR R[21] IN SLP(C)NO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**
13. **RANI** R/at Halehalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, District-Bangalore, Karnataka — **PID: 208195/2025 FOR R[22] IN SLP(C)NO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**
14. **V RAMAKRISHNA** S/o Krishnavath V, R/at No.F-30, 02, Rajendra Apartments, No.5, Vathiarthollam, Kedambakkam, Chennai 632006, District-Chennai, Tamil Nadu — **PID: 208196/2025 FOR R[24] IN SLP(C)NO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**
15. **SUKUMARAN CHANDRA MENON** S/o Late CP Chandra Menon, Residing at No. C-301 Prakruthi Medows Apartments, Amruthahalli Post, Bengaluru 560092, District-Bangalore, Karnataka. — **PID: 208197/2025 FOR R[26] IN SLP(C)NO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**
16. **KV RAMACHANDRAN** S/o S Venkataraman, R/at No.6/3, 1st Floor, Ragavappa Road, Jai Bharath Nagar, Bengaluru 560033 District-Bangalore. — **PID: 208198/2025 FOR R[27] IN SLP(C) NO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**
17. **KRISHNAPPAN** S/o Latenarayanappa, R/at No.44 (Old No.81) SLV Nilay, 1st Main Road, Motappa Palya Indiranagar Post Bengaluru 560038. District-Bangalore, Karnataka — **PID: 208199/2025 FOR R[28] IN SLP(C) NO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**
18. **PADMATHI,** W/o Rajamurthy Paged, About 55 years, R/at No.55/1, Behind Sri Muthyalamma Temple, Doopanahalli, HAL 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560008, District-Bangalore, Karnataka Districtbangalore, Karnataka. — **PID: 195245/2025 IN SLP(C) NO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**
19. **SAGAR,** S/o Rajamurthy Paged, About 55 years, R/at No.55/1, Behind Sri Muthyalamma Temple, Doopanahalli, Hal 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560008, District Bangalore, Karnataka, District- Bangalore, Karnataka — **PID: 195262/2025 IN SLP(C) NO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**
20. **POOJA,** D/o Rajamurthy Paged About 55 years, R/at No.55/1, Behind Sri Muthyalamma Temple, Doopanahalli, Hal 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560008, District Bangalore, Karnataka, District Bangalore, Karnataka. — **PID: 195263/2025 IN SLP(C) NO.18482/2023 (SEC IV-A)**

WHEREAS the Petition for SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) to Appeal with application for, APPLICATION FOR SUBSTITUTION, APPLICATION FOR CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING THE APPLICATION FOR SETTING ASIDE THE ABATEMENT above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by **Mr. HARISHA S.R.,** Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner above named was listed for hearing before this Court **on 05th August, 2025** along with the connected matters, when the Court was pleased to pass the following order-

"Issue notice an IA No.47345/2025 and IA No. 47346/2025.

Learned senior counsel appearing for the petitioner submitted that the purchasers could not be served and therefore, substituted service may be accepted by this Court. Certainly, the purchasers/unserved respondents will have to be heard. the trial Court.

Issue fresh notice to the unserved respondents, to be served through Dasti, in addition, is also permitted. Additionally, apart from these two modes, the petitioner is permitted to serve notice through the mode of publication in any of the local newspapers having wide circulation including one in the vernacular language and one in English. List the matter after eight weeks.

NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above petition will be posted for hearing before this Court **on 07th October, 2025** or in due course in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as may be convenient to the Court when you may appear before the court either in person or through Counsel and show cause to the Court as to why Special Leave and interim relief as prayed for be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

Take Further Notice that this Court has passed an interim order pending for disposal of SLP after notice as quoted above.

Take Further Notice that the prayer for interim relief after notice will also be listed before the Court on the aforesaid date.

PARIKSHITH MALIYE Advocate
No.209/1, 4th Floor, Palace Corner Apartment (Above Royal Enfield Showroom), Bellary Road, Sadashivnagar, Bengaluru-560 080. Mob. : 94495 87970 E-mail : parikshithmaliye@gmail.com

Government of Karnataka

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURIES

5th & 6th Floor, KPCL Green Building, Palace Road, Bengaluru - 560 001

No. DOT/PROC/37/2024-25 **Dt. 04.02.2026**

NOTIFICATION FOR EXTENSION OF DATE

Vide notification no. DOT/PROC/37/2024-25, dated 21.01.2026,applications are invited for the following posts: Solution Architect, Business Process Re-engineering, Domain Expert, Project Manager in the IFMS project of GOK under the Office of Commisssionerate of Treasuries, website **https://khajane.karnataka.gov.in/,** with details of work experience and other relevant documents on or before 13/02/2026. The Documents shall be sent by post to the Commisssionerate of Treasuries 6th Floor, KPCL Green Building, Palace road, Bengaluru 560001and by email **(commr.pa@karnataka.gov.in).**

Sd/-
Commisssionerate of Treasuries

DIPR/CP/5435/Zen/2025-26

BEFORE THE HON'BLE ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYO HALL UNIT, AT BENGALURU

[CCH-74] O.S. No. 25140/2024

BETWEEN

SMT. SARASAMMA, Wife of Rajanna V. Aged about 69 years, Residing at No. 36, Bettenahalli Village, Hegganahalli Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural – 562110 ...Plaintiff

AND

SRI. T. KRISHNAMURTHY AND OTHERS SMT. RATHNAMMA, Wife of Dodda Anjanappa Aged about 66 years, Residing at Kennur Village, Bangalore South Taluk ...Defendant No.5

SMT. GOWRAMMA, Wife of Kaverappa, Aged about 58 years, Residing at Alur Duddanahalli Post, Bangalore - 562110 ...Defendant No.6

SMT. MEENAKSHI, Wife of Sriramappa, Aged about 50 years, Residing at Kithiganur Village, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore ...Defendant No.7

SRI. C NAGARAJ Son of Mr. Chikka Abbaiah Reddy, Aged about 67 years, Residing at No.113, 2nd G Cross, Balaji Road, Abbaiah Reddy Layout, OMBR Layout Banaswadi, Bangalore-43 ...Defendant No.8

SMT. LEELAVATHI WIFE OF LATE B. N. SATYANNA Aged about 90 years Residing at No.473, 9th Cross,I Block, Jayanagara, Bangalore -560011 ...Defendant No.11

M/S NAVAKARNATKA PROPERTIES AND HOLDINGS, Having Office at No.696, 21st Cross, II Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore 560102 ...Defendant No.17

MR. SOMASHEKAR, Son of Late Sonnappa, Aged about 56 Residing at Kothanur Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore - 76 ...Defendant No.21

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS NOS. 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 17 AND 21 UNDER ORDER V RULE 20(1) -A OF THE CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE

Whereas, the Plaintiff has instituted the above suit seeking partition and separate possession of her 1/8th share in the schedule property, along with the consequential relief of declaration that the various instruments executed by the Defendants are not binding on the Plaintiff. You the abovementioned Defendant's Nos. 5,6,7,8,11,17,21 or any other person having any objection to the relief sought in the above suit or claiming any right, title, interest or share in respect of the schedule property, may appear before this Hon'ble Court either in person or through their Advocate on or before 03.03.2026, failing which the matter shall be heard in your absence and determined Ex-parte.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

Item No. 1:
Survey No. 46 of Kothanur Village, measuring 9 Acres 9 Guntas, including Kharab 1 acre and 39 Guntas and bounded by: **East by**: Mrs. Almithra Patel's Property and Poorna Pragna School **West by:** Naganahalli Dhakale North by: Thomas' Property **South by:** Mrs. Almithra Patil's Property

Item No. 2:
Survey No. 55 of Kothanur Village, measuring 9 Acres and 30 Guntas, including Kharab 3 Acres and 26 Guntas and bounded by: **East by:** Mrs. Almithra Patel's Property and Poorna Pragna School **West by:** Naganahalli Dhakale **North by:** Thomas' Property **South by:** Mrs. Almithra Patil's Property

Item No. 3:
Survey No. 47, New No. 62 of Kothanur Village, measuring 4 acres and 30 Guntas, including Kharab 1 Gunta, bounded on the: **East by:** Mrs. Almithra Patel's Property and Poorna Pragna School **West by:** Naganahalli Dhakale **North by:** Thomas' Property **South by:** Mrs. Almithra Patil's Property

Item No. 4:
Survey No. 41 of Kothanur Village, measuring 2 acres and 6 guntas bounded by: **East by:** Road **West by:** Govindappa's property **North by:** Anjanappa's Property **South by:** Ganesh and Ramanjali's Property

Item No. 5:
Survey No. 29 of Kothanur Village, measuring 1 Acre 15 Guntas bounded by: **East by:** Manjunath's land **West by:** Property of Ramanjani **North by:** Muniswamy's land **South by:** Anjinappa's Property

Item No. 6:
Survey No. 28 of Kothanur Village, measuring 1 Acre and 30 Guntas, bounded by: **East by:** Smt. Muniyamma's Property **West by:** Water Channel **North by:** Manjunatha's Property **South by:** Anjinappa's Property

Item No. 7:
Survey No. 19 of Kothanur Village, measuring 6 Guntas and bounded by: **East by:** Patel Ramaiah's Property **West by:** Sampangappa's Property **North by:** Sampangappa's Property **South by:** Krishnamurthy's Property

Item No. 8:
House bearing No. 23, Khata No. 55/54, with standing structure and the vacant land surrounding the huse property, situated at Kothanur Village, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring about 6000 Square Feet, with structures standing thereon, bounded by: **East by:** Ganesh and Muniyamma's House **West by:** Patel Ganesha and Sadaashiva's Property **North by:** Private Property **South by:** Muniyamma's Property

Item No. 9:
Property bearing House list o. 49/48, situated at Kothanur Village, measuring East to West: 33 Feet, North to South: 11 Feet, and bounded by: **East by:** Nathappa's Property **West by:** Road **North by:** Private Property **South by:** Manjunatha's Property

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

Item No. 1:
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being the dry agricultural land bearing Survey No. 20, totally measuring 4 Acres 4 Guntas excluding 1 Acre 20 Guntas of Kharab Land situated at Gunjur Village, Thobagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, bounded by: **East by:** Nala (Water Canal) **West by:** Bangalore Gauribandar Main Road **North by:** Small Road to Ghati Subramanya Temple **South by:** Property belonging to Subbarayappa and Lakshmi Narasappa

Item No. 2:
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being the dry agricultural land bearing Survey No. 22/1, totally measuring 38 Guntas and excluding 20 Guntas of Kharab Land situated at Gunjur Village, Thobagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, bounded by: **East by:** Nala (Water Canal) **West by:** Bangalore Hindupur Main Road **North by:** Private Property **South by:** Private Property

Item No. 3:
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being the dry agricultural land bearing Survey No. 22/1, totally measuring 2 Acre 17 Guntas excluding 1 acre 20 Guntas of Kharab Land situated at Gunjur Village, Thobagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, bounded by: **East by:** Nala (Water Canal) **West by:** Bangalore Hindupur Main Road **North by:** Private Property **South by:** Private Property

Item No.4:
All that Piece and parcel of the Immovable property bearing the Dry Agricultural Land measuring 1 acre and 18 guntas and 1 Acre and 26 guntas, totally measuring 3 acres 4 guntas excluding 30 guntas of kharab Land situated in Sy.No.22/1, Gunjuru Village, Thubgere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, bounded on: **East by : Nala West by :** Bangalore- Hindupuram Manin Road **North by:** Private Property **South by:** Private Property

Item No. 5:
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being the dry agricultural land measuring 6 acres and 10 guntas, excluding 3 acres approx., of kharab land forming portion of Sy.27, situated at Gunjur Village, Thobagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, bounded by: **East by:** Government Channel **West by:** Bangalore Hindapura main Road **North by:** Property belonging to the Purchaser **South by:** Property belonging to the Purchaser

Item No. 6:
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Survey No. 41/2, totally measuring 33 Guntas situated at Chikkathathamangala Village, Vijaypur Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, and Survey No. 41/3, measuring 1 Acre 28 Guntas situated at Chikkathathamangala Village, Vijaypur Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, as both properties are amalgamated, totally measuring 2 Acres 21 Guntas and bounded by: **East by:** Sunamma's Property **West by:** Mothapanahalli Basappa's Property **North by:** Property belonging to the Vendors **South by:** Property belonging to the Vendors

Item No. 7
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Survey No. 41/4, situated at Chikkathathamangala Village, Vijaypur Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, totally measuring 2 Acre 1 Guntas and bounded by: **East by:** Owner's Property **West by:** Owner's Property **North by:** Government Kharab Land **South by:** Owner's Property

Item No. 8:
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Survey No. 38/P3, situated at Chikkathathamangala Village, Vijaypur Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, totally measuring 13 Guntas and Survey No. 113, measuring 6 Guntas, Agricultural Land, totally measuring 19 Guntas and bounded by: **East by:** Gaddadenagenahalli Raste **West by:** Owner's Joint Property **North by:** Purchaser's Joint Property **South by:** Property of Karehalli Thyappa's and Owner's land

Item No. 9:
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Survey No. 44, situated at Chikkathathamangala Village, Vijaypur Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, totally measuring 9 Acre 4 Guntas and bounded by: **East by:** Owner's Joint Property **West by:** Owner's Joint Property **North by:** Purchaser's Joint Property **South by:** Property of Karehalli Thyappa's and Owner's land

SCHEDULE C

Item No.1
All that part and parcel of Survey No. 19/10 measuring 5 Guntas in Koth

Unions flag overtime, definition of factory in draft code

The Draft Occupational Safety Rules revive longer workday proposal, noting the working day can be extended up to 12 hours for certain factories or categories of workers, if notified by the State govt.

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

While the draft rules limit overtime to a maximum of 144 hours in a quarter, this figure is almost thrice the existing limit. FILE PHOTO

The draft rules for the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, published by the Karnataka government on January 27, have capped the daily working hours at 10.5 hours, stipulating that a worker cannot be made to work more than 48 hours in a week.

It further notes that the working day can be extended up to 12 hours for certain factories or categories of workers, if notified by the State government.

This appears to be in the same vein as the proposed amendment to the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishment Act, 1961, in June 2025. The proposal suggested increasing the daily working hours to 10 from the current nine hours, and to cap the total number of work hours at 12 a day, including overtime, inviting severe criticisms from trade unions.

According to the rules, in case of overtime, the worker shall be eligible for compensation, which is twice his ordinary rate of wages. While the draft rules limit overtime to a maximum of 144 hours in a quarter, this figure is almost thrice the existing limit. As per the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1961, the total overtime worked must not exceed 50 hours in any continuous three-month period.

The Code subsumes 13 Acts including Factories Act, 1948, Mines Act, 1952, and Interstate Migrant Workmen Act, 1979, among others.

Satyanand Mukund, State secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), raised concerns regarding the definition of factory in the Code.

"The threshold for a factory has been raised from 10 to 20 workers. That will encourage outsourcing of work from bigger factories to smaller factories, where the question of overtime payment will not arise. These will essentially become sweatshops," he said.

Mr. Mukund further expressed concerns that the Inspector-cum-Facilitator regime prioritises advisory compliance over strict enforcement, which could weaken deterrence against violations. Payal Gaikwad, a labour lawyer, pointed out that the draft rules do not require the employer to pay displacement allowances to inter-State migrant workers, in contrast to the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979.

"When inter-State migration is far more widespread and expensive, The Karnataka OSH Rules, 2026, do not provide for any such allowance...While earlier labour laws treated migration as a condition requiring compensation, the draft rules reduce the inter-State migration to an administrative category," she said.

Hazardous work

According to Ms. Gaikwad, while the draft rules retain detailed safety provisions, they rely increasingly on audit-based mechanisms and internal compliance systems. "The shift from frequent inspection to periodic verification marks a change in regulatory philosophy, moving away from State vigilance towards managed self-compliance. This raises questions about whether the intensity of oversight now matches the gravity of risk, especially in smaller but high-risk units," she said.

While the draft rules require principal employers to be identified in official records and impose a direct obligation on them to provide basic workplace amenities where contract workers are deployed, Ms. Gaikwad noted failures by contractors are addressed primarily through licensing conditions, security deposits, administrative inquiries and suspension or cancellation of licences, rather than through immediate fallback responsibility of the principal employer.

Positive overall

However, Prashanth B.K., who heads CCI Legal, felt that the OSH Code and Rules could bring in positive changes. He pointed out that the rules demand accountability from both employer and worker.

"From the employer's perspective, the fines for contravention of the Act have increased substantially. At the same time, the duties of employees are also listed out, in violation of which penalties have been brought in place. This way, both sides stay vigilant," he said.

Mr. Prashanth also hailed the introduction of free medical checkups for workers above 40, and a common licence through consolidation of the multiple Acts. "If the licence is not granted within the prescribed period, it is deemed to be accepted. Earlier, getting licences used to take months. This way, it holds the administrative officers also liable," he said.

Draft rules on social security details constitution of boards

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As per the draft of the Code on Social Security Rules by the Karnataka government, it shall nominate seven representatives from unorganised workers and seven representatives from employers of unorganised workers to the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Board. Two members of the Legislaive Assembly will also be part of the Board. The Construction Workers' Welfare Board members will include the Minister for Labour, Government of Karnataka, as the ex-officio Chairperson, a member nominated by the Central government, representatives of construction workers and employers and labour department officials, among others. The draft rules mandate the employer to pay a cess, which amounts to 1-2% of the cost of construction, towards the social security and welfare of building workers, within thirty days from the date of receipt of the assessment order.

'Between 2019 and 2025, nearly 28% of road accident victims in Karnataka were pedestrians'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pointing out that nearly 28% of the 60,000 lives lost in the road accidents that occurred between 2019 and 2025 in Karnataka were pedestrians, Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru of the High Court of Karnataka has urged every road user to adopt a cautious and disciplined approach.

He was speaking at the valedictory ceremony of electronic-Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) implementation and National Road Safety Month jointly organised by the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, the Transport and Police Departments in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Calling upon the motorists to yield to pedestrians, avoid using mobile phones while driving, not to drive under the influence of alcohol, do not exceed speed limits, and always wear helmets and seatbelts, he said that these actions require very little effort, yet they prevent immeasurable harm.

Pointing out that online integration of an accident data management system like e-DAR is vital in assisting the courts to effectively address post-accident case management, including compensation claims, Chief Justice Bakhru said no legal proceeding can undo the loss of a human life.

Traffic challans

The virtual court, over the past four to five years, has processed 1,33,069 traffic challans, of which only 323 cases were contested and referred to regular courts for trial, he said, while pointing out that virtual court has not only reduced the burden on regular courts but has also resulted in collection of ₹115.16 crore as fine amount to the State exchequer till date.

Inaugurated

Earlier in the day, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy inaugurated the implementation of e-DAR, an online system aimed at faster, more efficient reporting and processing of road accident cases in Karnataka.

Mr. Reddy said that the e-DAR platform has been designed to bring all stakeholders involved in road accident cases onto a single digital interface, reducing delays caused by manual documentation and improving coordination among departments.

"The system acts as a central repository for reporting, management and analysis of road accident data, with the larger goal of enhancing road safety across the State," the Minister said.

2-day 'Oota from Thota' starts today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Garden City Farmers, a Bengaluru-based non-profit NGO, is organising the 50th edition of *Oota from Thota* (OFYT50), a two-day programme focused on urban farming, garden stalls and seed sharing, on February 7 and 8 at Science Gallery in Hebbal.

Expert talks

The event will run from 10 a.m. onwards on both days and will feature expert talks on urban farming, hands-on workshops, garden produce stalls and community seed exchanges. The venue includes both open areas and an indoor hall.The programme is open to the public, though workshops require prior registration. Entry passes are free and can be obtained online.

More details and registration are available online.

AXIS BANK PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION
Public Notice for – E-Auction of pledged assets being Gold Ornaments

The Borrowers, in specific and the public in general are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledge in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted by the Axis Bank at the below mentioned Branch.

The below mentioned Borrowers has availed the credit facility from the **Axis Bank Limited** against the pledge of gold ornaments ("Gold Loan Facility") in favour of the Bank towards the security. The Demand notices were issued to the Borrowers/Guarantors calling up the Borrowers/Guarantors to pay their outstanding amount towards the Gold loan facility availed. As the Borrowers/Guarantors have failed to repay the outstanding loan amount, the bank is constrained to invoke the pledge and proposed to conduct an e-auction sale of pledged gold ornaments more particularly described in schedule of property hereunder on **16.02.2026 at 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM on "As In Where Is", "As Is What Is", "Whatever There Is" and "No Recourse Basis".**

Details of Borrowers and outstanding amount

Branch Name	Loan A/C No.	Customer Name	Amount Outstanding	Date of Demand Notice	Gross Weight	Net Weight
Bangarapet [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX8262	K Standly .	659290.63	10-Jan-26	359.800	359.100
Bangarapet [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX7442	Sudha Rani	412655	10-Jan-26	79.000	76.400
Bangarapet [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX7041	Munendra T	154479	10-Jan-26	25.400	24.900
Bangarapet [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX0857	Munendra T	54335	10-Jan-26	10.500	10.300
Basaveshwar Nagar, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX2828	K Chandrashekar	1361341.65	10-Jan-26	216.100	214.400
Basaveshwar Nagar [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX8008	Muninaga M	1299530	10-Jan-26	340.400	316.500
Basaveshwar Nagar [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX3979	Muninaga M	504802	10-Jan-26	109.500	99.600
Bhattarahalli [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX8623	Nagendra Babu R	89464	10-Dec-25	18.700	17.500
Bidadi, Bangalore [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX1752	Afnan Pasha	623297.79	10-Jan-26	91.920	90.750
Bommasandra [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX7364	Harender Choudhary	1850732.88	16-Jun-25	323.300	319.600
Chamarajpet, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX0235	Kanik Raj J	245202	19-Dec-25	35.500	33.600
Chamarajpet, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX2619	Kavya K	125671	10-Dec-25	17.000	16.200
Channapatna [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX9007	Ravi Kumar S	618289.07	10-Dec-25	97.500	96.000
Channapatna [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX7501	Syed Fazalullah	381133.08	10-Dec-25	73.400	71.400
Channapatna [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX7544	Shakeebuddin	271988.25	10-Jan-26	58.000	56.800
Chikballapur Kola [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX9547	Tasneem Sultana H A	2318734	10-Jan-26	294.000	293.990
Chikballapur Kola [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX4500	Ravikumar M A .	428265.03	10-Jan-26	50.930	50.830
Chikballapur Kola [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX4414	Lakshmi N .	192815.78	10-Dec-25	26.700	26.200
Devanahalli, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX2351	Venkatesh Siruvuri	346571	10-Jan-26	67.700	50.500
Dod Ballapur, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX5012	Vinod S	214014	10-Jan-26	32.430	31.630
Dod Ballapur, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX3634	Vinod S	207239.89	10-Jan-26	33.500	32.100
Garvebhavipalya [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX2318	Harshath Gowda M	93750.83	19-Dec-25	16.300	16.000
Govindarajanaga [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX0885	Santhosh Kumar R	89125.91	10-Dec-25	14.000	13.500
Hoskote,Bangalore [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX5454	Sandeep M S	132925.69	10-Jan-26	16.600	16.400
J P Nagar, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX7148	Aniruddha R Nadig	1375620.95	10-Jan-26	231.400	218.800
J P Nagar, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX0842	Shanmukhappa Hanumanthappa Hanagi	219526.49	10-Jan-26	36.400	32.300
Kadugodi [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX0836	Raghavendra H P	1380000	12-Dec-25	338.000	328.900
Kadugodi [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX6504	Raghavendra H P	634000	12-Dec-25	156.100	151.100
Kalyan Nagar, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX7004	Syed Afridi	206284.9	10-Jan-26	43.600	39.000
Koramangala, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX5994	Papolu Devika	355185.88	10-Jan-26	66.300	59.800
Mahadevpura [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX4616	Umesh	93525	10-Jan-26	17.600	14.900
Mahalakshmi Layout [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX3028	Ramanjaneya K C	80001	31-Jul-25	13.100	13.100
Mahalakshmi Layout [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX0102	Sushanth R	70422	05-Jun-25	13.700	13.200
Mahalakshmi Layout [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX2549	Shreenivasa G	23848.66	27-Oct-25	11.000	10.000
Malur [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX4581	M R Adithya	2526742.18	10-Jan-26	340.700	322.500
Malur [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX1279	G Srinivas	308940	10-Jan-26	50.400	47.400
Malur [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX3199	Basavaraj N	188719	10-Jan-26	40.400	37.300
Malur [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX4589	Sunil Kumar C	96014.53	10-Jan-26	15.300	15.100
Marathahalli, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX8077	Nallipogu Ravi	148244	19-Dec-25	28.900	28.400
Nelamangala, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX1582	N Swetha	572858.55	10-Jan-26	83.400	77.400
Peenya, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX6184	Srinivasa P	391395	16-Nov-25	58.500	58.500
R T Nagar, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX6808	Shreedhar B Rudrappa	364312	06-Nov-25	64.100	56.000
Rajarajeshwari Nagar [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX0517	Prashanth S	74760	10-Jan-26	17.010	15.960
Ramanagara [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX0493	Nagaraju	500082.17	10-Jan-26	61.800	60.400
Sarjapur Road [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX4881	Manisha Dubey	1149344.87	06-Nov-25	181.300	179.400
Sarjapur Road [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX9168	Vasantha G	357050	10-Dec-25	58.800	56.800
Sarjapur Road [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX8768	N Subramanyam	131019.68	10-Jan-26	23.600	23.400
Whitefield Main [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX4329	Harish Chandra Mohanty	84289.41	10-Jan-26	12.600	12.300
Yelahanka, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX1919	Santhosh S R	1332505.36	10-Jan-26	182.000	172.700

Axis Bank Ltd. has the authority to remove account/change the auction date without any prior notice. Auction will be held online https://gold.samil.in on 16.02.2026 between 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM.
For detailed Terms and conditions, please log into given website https://gold.samil.in (website of online vendor)

Place: Bangalore Sd/- Authorized Officer, Axis Bank LTD.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, hereby notify the public and in particular Mr. Syed Tabraz Altaf, S/o Mr. Mir Altaf Hussain, that we, (i) Mr. Syed Naveed Altaf, S/o Mr. Mir Altaf Hussain; (ii) Ms. Salma Zubair, D/o Mr. Mir Altaf Hussain; (iii) Mr. Syed Khalid Altaf, S/o Mr. Mir Altaf Hussain; and (iv) Mr. Syed Mohid Altaf, S/o Mr. Mir Altaf Hussain; and along with one other person by name Mr. Mir Altaf Hussain, S/o D.S. Mazhar-Ul-Mulk; all residing at No. 139/4/3 N A 5 Diamond Villas, Goolimangala Village, Near A P M C Fruit Market, Sarjapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, Karnataka 560099 have executed a Special Power of Attorney dated January 4, 2023, registered in the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Basavanagudi (Attibele) Anekal Taluk, as document no. ABL-4-00267-2022-23, and stored in CD ABLD1347 in favour of Mr. Syed Tabraz Altaf, S/o Mr. Mir Altaf Hussain, aged about 43 years, Occupation: Business, R/at No. 3J, 7th C Main, 3rd Cross, Koramangala 3rd Block, Bangalore South 560034, in respect of the property described in the Schedule hereunder, for obtaining registration of documents executed by us.

We hereby unconditionally revoke and cancel the said Special Power of Attorney dated January 4, 2023 with immediate effect, since the power of attorney holder has acted beyond the scope of authority and in a manner detrimental to the interests of all of us. Mr. Syed Tabraz Altaf is no longer our authorised agent and he has no right, authority, or power to act on our behalf in any manner whatsoever, under the terms of the power of attorney aforesaid.

The general public, banks, financial institutions, developers, tenants, M/s BSR Builders and Developers, and all other concerned persons are hereby cautioned not to deal with or act upon the said Special Power of Attorney dated January 4, 2023 or on any representation made by the said Mr. Syed Tabraz Altaf claiming as our power of attorney holder.

Any person dealing with the Mr. Syed Tabraz Altaf on the strength of the Special Power of Attorney dated January 4, 2023 shall do so at their own risk, cost, and consequences, and we shall not be bound by such acts.

SCHEDULE

Residential building/apartment complex under the name M/s Central Heights Apartments, consisting of 96 individual flats comprised in two blocks, namely Block A and B, and constructed over property bearing e-Khatha No. 150200103000520052, PID No. 39/68/3/139/5/7, (previously Sy. No. 68/3 New Sy. No. 139/5, measuring 1 acre), situated at Goolimangala Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, 4046.86 Sq. mtrs (1 Acre) and bounded on:

East by: Private property
West by: Private property
North by: Private property 139/4
South by: Road

(i) Mr. Syed Naveed Altaf
(ii) Ms. Salma Zubair
(iii) Mr. Syed Khalid Altaf
(iv) Mr. Syed Mohid Altaf

Mr. S.R. Suryanarayana Rao
and Mr. Vasudev Dibbur
Advocates and Solicitors
M/ s Trinala Chambers
No898 Karigiri 1st F Main, Opposite
Sai Mandir Arch, Girinagar
Bangalore - 560085.

Bangalore
February 6, 2026

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
MISCELLANEOUS WORKS

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms/contractor for the following works. **Tender Notice No. 01-2026-SrDENC, Name of work:** (1) Provision of widening of width of PF-02 at Latur Station. (2) Provision of approach road in railway colonies under ADEN/PVR sub-division. **Approximate Cost of the work :** ₹ 75413262.26. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 527100.00, **Completion period of the work:** 6 Months. **Maintenance Period:** 12 Months. **Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website:** 23.02.2026 upto 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in :** 23.02.2026 at 15.30 hrs. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in** EXP-05

Download UTS App for Tickets

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

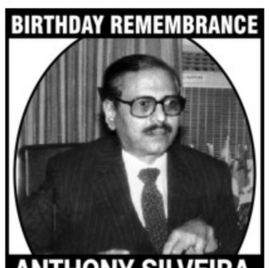
In Loving Memory of

Joseph Stanislaus
16 Aug 1934 - 4 Feb 2026

With deep sadness and hope in the Resurrection, we announce the passing of Joseph Stanislaus, former Chief Design Engineer at HAL. A loving husband of 64 years, a devoted father to five daughters & proud grandfather to seven grandchildren. A funeral Mass will held at Resurrection Church, Old Madras Road on Saturday, 7th February 2026 at 3:00 PM. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



ANTHONY SILVEIRA
DGM (Retd) - IOB
06.02.1928 - 10.04.2008

"Your cherished memories will always remain in our hearts guiding and blessing us."

Remembered by :
GEETA P SHETTI
GM (Retd), Indian Overseas Bank
Flat H/103, Satt Adhars
Basilio Complex, St. Inez,
Panaji, Goa - 403001
Mobile : 07715043211

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಚೇರಿ (ಘವನಿ), ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–580029

ನಂ. ಎಚ್.ಡಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ/74/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 05–02–2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

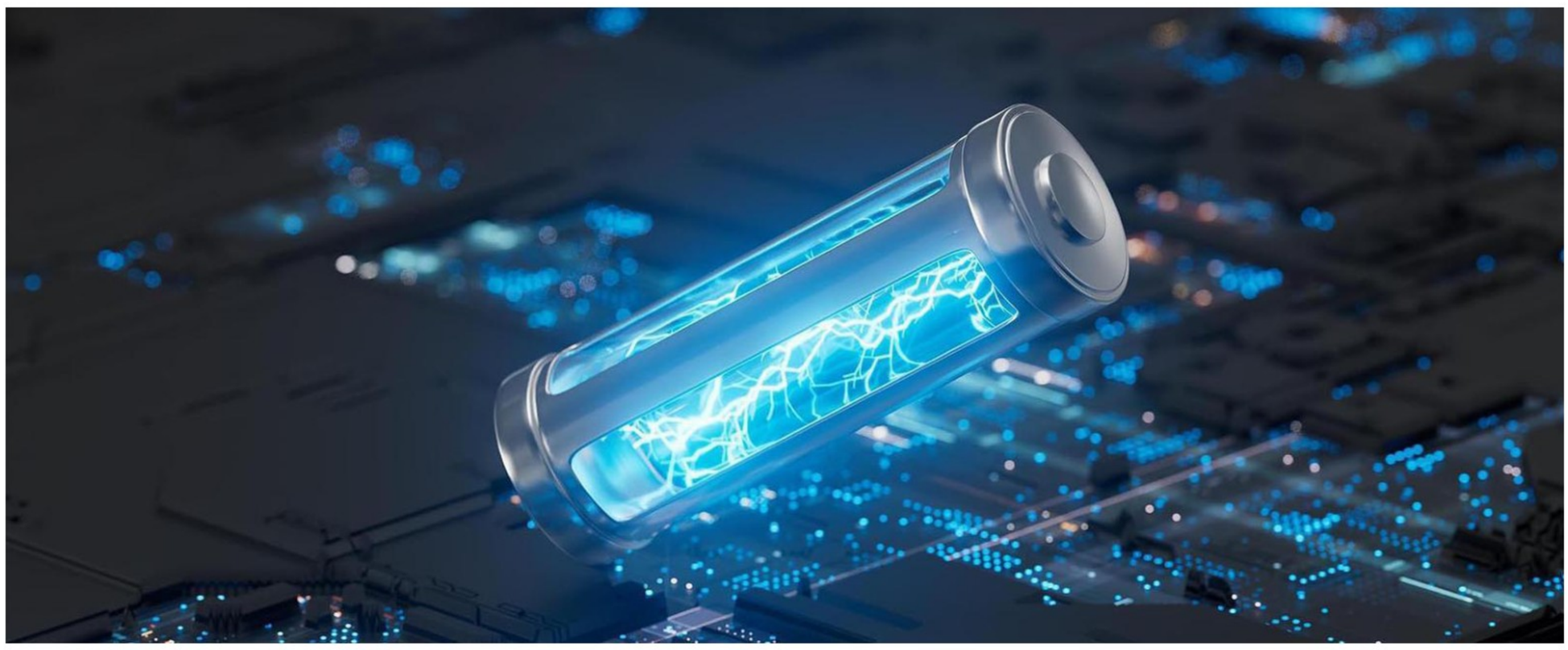
ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ	ಇಎಂಡಿ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ
1	DMA/2025-26/SE7009/CALL-2	65,53,575.00	1,31,071.00	16–02–2026 ಸಮಯ ಸಂಜೆ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆ	17–02–2026 ಸಮಯ ಸಂಜೆ 4:30 ಗಂಟೆ
2	DMA/2025-26/SE7013/CALL-2	58,25,400.00	1,16,508.00		
3	DMA/2025-26/SE7014/CALL-2	50,97,225.00	1,01,944.00		
4	DMA/2025-26/SE7015/CALL-2	36,40,875.00	91,022.00		
5	DMA/2025-26/SE7016/CALL-2	65,53,575.00	1,31,071.00		

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಅಗತ್ಯವಾದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 06–02–2026 ರಿಂದ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಾಗಿನ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಘವನಿ)
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/1199/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2025–26

CACHE



GETTY IMAGES

Rethinking battery strategy in India: the case for sodium-ion technology

India's dependence on lithium-ion batteries exposes structural constraints linked to critical minerals, import dependence, and supply security; sodium-ion batteries emerge as a safer alternative with lower material risk, compatible with existing infrastructure, and the potential to strengthen energy security

Jaideep Saraswat
Nikhil Mall

Batteries have become deeply embedded in modern life. From laptops, mobile phones, wearable devices such as smartwatches and wireless earphones, to power tools, electric vehicles (EVs), and large-scale battery energy storage systems, batteries now underpin both personal convenience and critical infrastructure. A newer trend is also emerging, with batteries being integrated directly into household appliances. These developments collectively point to a future saturated with batteries, making energy storage a foundational pillar of economic growth, energy security, and the clean energy transition.

Dominant, not a perfect solution

Among the various battery chemistries that have existed or are still in use, lithium-ion batteries have emerged as the dominant global technology. This dominance is largely driven by their high energy density, low self-discharge rates, and long cycle life. Sustained global focus on lithium-ion technology over the past two decades has resulted in steady improvements in performance, manufacturing efficiency, and large-scale capacity build-out. By 2024, global lithium-ion manufacturing capacity had reached nearly 2.5 times annual demand, further accelerating cost reductions through economies of scale. As a result, costs have fallen dramatically, from nearly $1,100 per kWh in the early 2010s to about $108 per kWh in 2025.

However, the success of lithium-ion batteries masks several structural challenges. These batteries are highly resource-intensive and depend on critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and graphite. The availability of these materials is unevenly distributed across a handful of countries, while refining and processing capacities are even more geographically concentrated. This creates vulnerabilities related to supply security, price volatility, and geopolitical risk. As global demand for batteries accelerates, these constraints are likely to intensify, reinforcing the need for alternative technologies that can support a more resilient and equitable energy transition.

Ambitions and structural constraints

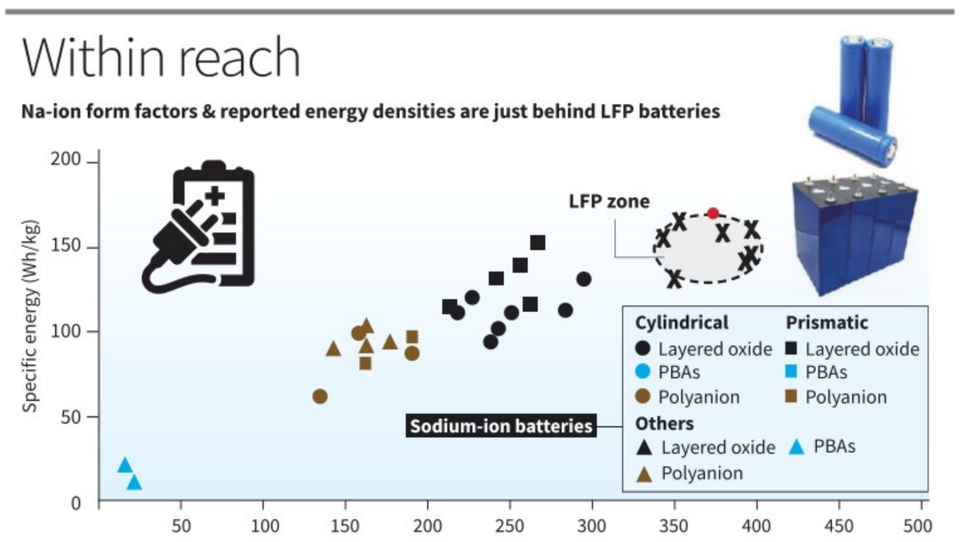
The Government of India has made sustained efforts to build domestic battery manufacturing capacity, most notably through the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cells launched in 2021. Under this scheme, around 40 GWh of manufacturing capacity has been allocated so far. While this represents meaningful progress, deployment remains at an early stage, with just over 1 GWh commissioned to date and additional capacities expected to come online gradually.

More critically, India's upstream ecosystem, from raw material availability and mineral processing to cathode and anode active material production and separator manufacturing, remains underdeveloped. Domestic reserves of lithium are limited and yet to be proven commercially viable, while processing infrastructure is still nascent. Consequently, import dependence for lithium-ion batteries is likely to persist for a considerable period. This reality underscores the importance of parallel investments in alternative battery technologies that can reduce material risk and strengthen long-term energy security. Sodium-ion batteries (SiBs) represent one such technology, offering significant promise for India in the medium to long term.

Energy density: sodium vs lithium

From a fundamental perspective, sodium-ion batteries exhibit lower specific energy (Wh/kg) than lithium-ion batteries, largely because sodium has a higher atomic mass than lithium, which intuitively leads to more mass per unit of stored energy. However, this performance gap is often overstated. In practice, it can be significantly narrowed if the mass of other cell components in sodium-ion batteries is reduced, thereby compensating for the higher mass of sodium itself. Moreover, among commercially available sodium-ion chemistries, layered transition-metal oxide cathodes already deliver higher specific energy than polyanionic compounds and Prussian blue analogues, underscoring the growing competitiveness of sodium-ion technology.

Importantly, layered oxide sodium-ion batteries are now approaching the specific energy of lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries, as illustrated in **Figure 1**. Although their volumetric energy density (Wh/L) still trails that of LFP, ongoing materials and cell-level optimisations are expected to substantially narrow this gap and potentially lead to meaningful overlap. It is also important to emphasise that this comparison is based on commercially available products, whereas laboratory-scale and pilot-level research results suggest even greater performance potential. By contrast, comparisons with high-energy lithium nickel manganese cobalt (NMC) chemistries are less instructive, as NMC batteries occupy a distinct performance space and entail separate trade-offs related to safety and reliance on critical minerals.



The specific energy density of a battery indicates the amount of electrical energy it can store per unit of its own mass, measured in Watt-hours per kilogram (Wh/kg), determining how light a battery can be for a given potential. The volumetric energy density of a battery refers to the amount of energy it can store per unit volume, measured in Watt-hours per litre (Wh/L), defining how compact a battery is. Ideally, both should be high. We notice that commercially available layered oxide sodium-ion batteries of different shapes have better specific energy density and volumetric energy density than their sodium-ion counterparts built of polyanionic compounds and Prussian blue analogues (PBAs). However, they have lower specific energy density and volumetric energy density than lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries, indicated as (x). Data from the Volta Foundation's Annual Battery Report 2024

EV manufacturers should be encouraged through procurement policies, pilot programmes, and regulatory nudges to type-test and approve vehicle platforms using sodium-ion batteries alongside lithium-ion options. This approval strategy would allow rapid substitution in response to supply disruptions or cost fluctuations

Safety first

Safety is one of the most compelling advantages of sodium-ion batteries. Studies, including those conducted by the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, have shown that sodium-ion cells exhibit significantly lower peak temperature rise during thermal runaway events compared to lithium-ion cells. This intrinsic safety advantage extends well beyond cell performance into storage, handling, and transportation.

Lithium-ion batteries are classified as "Dangerous Goods" by national and international transport authorities, necessitating strict packaging, handling, and transportation requirements. They are typically shipped at a state of charge not exceeding 30%, which increases logistical complexity and cost. These restrictions stem from the use of copper current collectors on the anode side, which can dissolve at low voltages and redeposit on the cathode, increasing the risk of internal short circuits.

Sodium-ion batteries do not suffer from these limitations. They use aluminium current collectors on both the anode and cathode sides, as sodium does not form unstable alloys with aluminium. As a result, sodium-ion cells can be safely stored and transported at zero volts without degradation or safety risks. Prolonged storage at zero volts has been shown not to compromise cycling stability. This feature offers significant benefits across the value chain, including safer handling, lower transportation costs, and greater flexibility in manufacturing and installation.

Manufacturing ready

Another critical advantage of sodium-ion batteries is their compatibility with existing lithium-ion manufacturing infrastructure. With relatively minor modifications, lithium-ion production lines can be adapted to manufacture sodium-ion cells. This dramatically lowers the capital barrier to adoption and allows manufacturers to hedge against raw material supply risks.

The primary process difference lies in moisture sensitivity during cell stack preparation. Sodium-ion batteries require more stringent vacuum drying conditions, as residual moisture can have a greater negative impact on performance. While lithium-ion cells can tolerate drying at relatively mild vacuum levels, sodium-ion cells require deeper vacuum conditions, which may marginally increase energy consumption and manufacturing costs. However, as the industry progresses toward dry electrode coating and advanced manufacturing techniques, these challenges are expected to diminish.

Sodium-ion batteries offer a structurally different material pathway compared to lithium-ion systems. Sodium is derived from abundantly available resources such as soda ash, which are far more plentiful and geographically diversified than lithium. Several sodium-ion chemistries eliminate the need for critical minerals.

In addition, sodium-ion batteries use aluminium as the current collector for both electrodes. Aluminium is cheaper, lighter, and more widely available than copper, resulting in cost savings and weight advantages. These material choices significantly reduce exposure to global commodity price volatility and enhance supply chain resilience, a critical consideration for a country like India.

Why sodium-ion matters

Taken together, these attributes suggest that sodium-ion batteries are not merely an experimental technology but a commercially viable and strategically important solution. Cost projections indicate that sodium-ion batteries could undercut lithium-ion batteries by 2035. As of 2025, around 70 GWh of sodium-ion manufacturing capacity is already operational globally, with expectations of scaling to nearly 400 GWh by 2030. This rapid expansion highlights the urgency for India to engage early and decisively with this technology.

Policy, regulatory, and ecosystem recommendations for India

To ensure sodium-ion batteries become a meaningful part of India's energy storage landscape, a coordinated policy and regulatory approach is essential. Public support for upstream battery infrastructure, such as cathode, anode, electrolyte, and separator manufacturing, should explicitly include sodium-ion chemistries rather than remaining narrowly focused on lithium-ion systems. Future incentive programs, including revisions to the PLI framework, should encourage flexibility, ensuring that new battery plants are designed to accommodate both lithium-ion and sodium-ion production with minimal retrofitting from the very beginning. From a regulatory standpoint, standards, safety codes, and certification pathways must be updated to explicitly include sodium-ion batteries, enabling faster commercialisation and deployment.

EV manufacturers should be encouraged through procurement policies, pilot programmes, and regulatory nudges to type-test and approve vehicle platforms using sodium-ion batteries alongside lithium-ion options. This dual-approval strategy would allow rapid substitution in response to supply disruptions or cost fluctuations.

Finally, targeted public funding for R&D, demonstration projects, and early deployments, particularly in grid storage, two- and three-wheeler EVs, and stationary applications, can help build market confidence.

By aligning industrial policy, regulation, and market incentives, India can foster a fair, resilient, and future-ready battery ecosystem in which sodium-ion batteries play a central role.

Jaideep Saraswat leads the Electric Mobility vertical at Vasudha Foundation where he focuses on addressing key barriers to EV adoption and advancing sustainable mobility solutions; Nikhil Mall is also part of the Electric Mobility vertical contributing to research, stakeholder engagement, and initiatives that promote the transition to clean transportation

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Here is a quiz on some influential figures and key events that happened today

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

Elizabeth II ascended the throne of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland this day, following the death of her father, King George VI. She became the longest-reigning monarch in British history in 2015. In which year did she ascend the throne?

QUESTION 2

The President of the U.S. was born on this day in 1911. In his first term as President, he began implementing a policy involving economic deregulation and cuts in both taxes and government spending. Name him.

QUESTION 3

This Jamaican singer was born on this day in 1981. Considered one of the pioneers of reggae, he fused elements of reggae, ska, and rocksteady, and was renowned for his distinctive vocal and songwriting style. Identify him.

QUESTION 4

Eva Braun was born on this day in 1912. She was the wife of which famous political figure from history?

Visual Question: Identify this French filmmaker who was born on this day. He is widely regarded as one of the founders of an art movement in France. What was it? WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

QUESTION 5

This Hungarian-American socialite and actor was born on February 6, 1917. Her most famous film was Moulin Rouge. Who was she?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. On February 5, 1958, the U.S. Air Force lost a hydrogen bomb named 'Tybee' and never recovered it. What is the U.S. military's term for such events? **Ans: Broken Arrow incidents**

2. In 1968, a U.S. B-52 aircraft carrying four thermonuclear bombs crashed onto the sea ice off the coast of ____. **Ans: Greenland**

3. After the Soviet Union collapsed, a former Russian national security advisor named X said the Russian military had lost track of roughly 100 "suitcase-sized" nuclear devices. **Ans: Alexander Lebed**

4. In 1974, the CIA attempted a secret $800-million recovery mission called Project Y. Name Y. **Ans: Azorian**

5. In 1965, the CIA and Indian Intelligence tried to install a plutonium-powered monitoring device atop _____ ____. Fill in the blanks. **Ans: Nanda Devi**

Visual: Name these islands. **Ans: Falkland Islands**

Early Birds: Tamal Biswas | Tito Shiladitya | Arun Kumar Singh | Lalchand Bhutani | Sukdev Shet

Word of the day

Specious:
plausible but false

Synonyms: deceptive, incorrect, ambiguous

Usage: *What seemed like solid evidence turned out to be specious.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/speciouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /spi:ʃəs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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Shrinking shock absorbers of BNP

The green cover: A study says Bannerghatta National Park acts as a terminal point on the northern side of Mysore Elephant Reserve, the movement path for Asian Elephants to migrate from the adjacent Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, and Krishnagiri and Hosur Forest Division of Tamil Nadu. K. MURALI KUMAR

Instead of maintaining the ESZ whose main objective is to function as a buffer for protected areas, successive governments have worked at reducing the ESZ around Bannerghatta National Park in Bengaluru South. ***Hemanth C.S.*** looks at the implications

For a State that takes pride in having the country's highest elephant population at 6,013, even as it has suffered a high rate of human casualties due to attacks by elephants (20 deaths in 2025-26 alone), Karnataka ought to be in the forefront of maintaining Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ).

However, instead of maintaining the ESZ, whose main objective is to function as a buffer for protected areas, successive governments have worked at reducing the ESZ around the Bannerghatta National Park (BNP), which is home to three elephant corridors – Karadikal-Mahadeshwara, Thally-Bilikal and Bilikal-Jawalagiri – and over 150 elephants.

In 2015, the Karnataka government submitted a proposal for declaring the ESZ around BNP in Bengaluru.

The ESZ initially proposed around BNP in the draft notification dated June 15, 2016, covered an area of 268.96 sq. km. Subsequently, this was reduced to 181.57 sq. km., and thereafter to 168.84 sq. km. in the final notification dated March 11, 2020.

Vehicles passing through Bannerghatta National Park, between Harohalli and Anekal, in Bengaluru Urban District.

In the 2016 draft notification, the BNP's ESZ was 100 m to 4.5 km from the boundary of the national park, which was subsequently reduced to 100 m to 1 km in the 2020 ESZ notification.

Challenging the reduction of BNP's ESZ, a petition was filed by K. Belliappa and others in May 2025. The Supreme Court constituted a Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to look into the issue and submit a report to the apex court.

On January 2, Chandra Prakash Goyal, a member of the CEC, visited the national park. He held discussions with the local farmers and the petitioners. On January 7, Siddhanta Das, chairperson of the committee, submitted a report to the apex court, which recommended restoring the 2016 draft notification and cancelling a 2020 notification, which reduces the ESZ.

It recommended that the entire exercise to renotify the ESZ of BNP be completed within the next six months.

What are ESZs?

According to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the National Environment Policy (2006) defines the ESZs as areas or zones with identified environmental resources having incomparable values, which require special attention for their conservation because of its landscape, wildlife, biodiversity, historical and natural values.

It further adds that the purpose of ESZs is to protect the environment and avoid its degradation due to anthropogenic activities, create some kind of barrier or shock absorber for the specialised ecosystem (PAs), and act as a transition zone from areas of higher protection to areas involving lesser protection.

Environmentalist Kiran Urs, who works with Bannerghatta Nature Conservation Trust, said that the ESZ is delineated by the MoEFCC based on certain guidelines.

"There are certain guidelines from the MoEFCC, and the ESZs can stretch up to 10 km. Based on the assessment, the BNP was given an ESZ of 100 m to 4.5 km in 2016. There were ecological reasons behind this, as the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) had done some studies, and it was decided that Bannerghatta needs a buffer zone of 100 m to 4.5 km," Urs said.

> If a stadium comes here, will they allow farmers' children and local youth to use the facilities? At best, our children will be offered the job of security guards, or they will be selling tickets for cricket matches
>
> **NAGARAJ**
> A farmer

Why was ESZ reduced?

Urs said the ESZ was reduced primarily to facilitate the Karnataka government's large-scale housing development project, Surya Nagar Layout (KHB Surya City), which abuts the revised ESZ boundary of the BNP. "Initially, it was thought the reduction happened to ensure the operation of the quarries in the area, and also because of the land purchased by politicians to run resorts. But later, we got to know that the Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) was developing a housing project," he said.

He added that the KHB had identified five villages for this housing project, out of which three villages – Bagganadoddi, Kadajakkanahalli, and Indlawadi – are inside the ESZ as per the 2016 draft notification.

"When they came to know that they cannot do any development project in these villages, as per the rules in the ESZ, they thought let us move the boundary," he added.

The CEC, in its report, has mentioned this.

"It is also important to note that the State of Karnataka is undertaking a large-scale housing development, namely the Surya Nagar Layout (KHB Surya City), immediately abutting the revised ESZ boundary of BNP. The subject land earlier formed part of the ESZ, within which activities such as the development of housing layouts and large residential projects were expressly restricted. However, by virtue of the ESZ notification dated 30.10.2018, this area was excluded from the ESZ on the stated ground of urbanisation pressure," the panel said in its report.

It added that subsequent to such exclusion, extensive environmental alteration has been undertaken, including large-scale land levelling, flattening of naturally elevated terrain, and destruction of existing topography to facilitate housing development.

"The project, being of considerable magnitude, is likely to result in irreversible modification of land contiguous to a protected forest, raising serious concerns regarding the absence of any scientific assessment, evaluation of cumulative environmental impacts, and adherence to constitutional and environmental safeguards. It is also significant that the project site lies in proximity to the Karadikkal–Mahadeshwara wildlife corridor, and the Forest Department of Karnataka has already flagged the likelihood of increased human–wildlife conflict arising from this development," the CEC noted in the report.

The CEC has noted that the decision to reduce the ESZ was taken in the Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting chaired by the Karnataka Environment Minister in 2017, and that this is contrary to para 6.2 of the 2011 Guidelines for Declaration of ESZ around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, which requires the state government to constitute a committee comprising the Chief Wildlife Warden, an ecologist, a representative of the local self-government and an officer of the revenue department to assess and recommend the appropriate extent of the ESZ for its management and the activities incorporated in the master plan for the region.

"The revised proposal for reduction in ESZ is in violation of the 2011 guidelines," the CEC stated.

Opposition from farmers

Many farmers have protested against the housing project and have even filed petitions challenging the acquisition of their agricultural land.

"The KHB has forced many farmers to part with their arable land for the KHB Surya City. Why should our land be forcibly acquired when we still want to continue with our agricultural activities? Anekal taluk was once known as the 'Ragi Bowl of Karnataka', but large tracts of arable land have been forcefully acquired, and farmers who don't want to part with their land are being threatened," Somashekar T., a farmer from Kadajakkanahalli, told *The Hindu*.

Local farmers and environmental activists said that about 36,000 housing sites would be created in the 2,200 acres of land earmarked for the project. "Apart from being agricultural land, it is in the elephant corridor and comes under the ESZ. If large-scale commercialisation takes place, and complexes and stadiums are built here, it will cause a lot of harm to the environment," said Shivakumar L., a farmer from Indlawadi.

In August 2025, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah cleared a proposal by the KHB to build a state-of-the-art sports complex, including a cricket stadium with 80,000-seat capacity in Surya City.

"Stadiums are usually built by the Department of Sports or Youth Affairs. Why is KHB involved in this? If this stadium comes here, there is no benefit for us. Will they allow the farmers' children or local youth to use the facilities? At best, our children will be offered the job of security guards, or they will be selling tickets for cricket matches," said Nagaraj, another farmer.

Elephant corridor

According to ecologist T.V. Ramachandra, who conducted a study on the BNP ESZ for the Forest Department, the national park is one of the oldest habitats of Asian elephants, supporting a population of 100-150 pachyderms, and a large (200-300) migratory population is noticed from adjoining Tali reserve forest and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

The study said that BNP acts as a terminal point on the northern side of Mysore Elephant Reserve, the movement path for Asian Elephants to migrate from the adjacent Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary of Karnataka, and Krishnagiri and Hosur Forest Division of Tamil Nadu which is in continuum with the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve carved out of Western Ghats forest at Nilgiris stretching through M.M. hills, Biligiri Ranga Temple Sanctuary, Kollegal Forest Division and Sathyamangalam Forest of Tamil Nadu.

"The park constitutes the northern terminal of the notified Mysore Elephant Reserve. It comprises predominantly dry deciduous and scrub forests, with riverine and moist deciduous habitats in the valleys, supports breeding populations of elephants and other keystone wildlife species such as leopard, wild dog, gaur, sambar, chital, sloth bear, and slender loris, and functions as an important watershed giving rise to several tributaries that ultimately drain into the river Cauvery," the CEC report states.

Tigers seen since 2015

Urs said that two tigers have been spotted in BNP in the last few years."Two tigers have been spotted since 2015. They have come from the Cauvery wildlife Sanctuary, and they are making this (BNP) their habitat," he said.

The petitioners said that with thousands of new residents, vehicles, lights, and waste entering the landscape, encounters with elephants, leopards, bears, and other wildlife will no longer be occasional, but inevitable.

Suryanagar Phase 4 of the Karnataka Housing Board bordering BNP in Anekal in Bengaluru Urban District.

Farmers staging a protest near BNP in Anekal in Bengaluru Urban District; a car crossing a stream flowing inside BNP off Harohalli road, near Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Art and tech, design and music, performances and workshops, come together as The Sixth Sense, a multi-disciplinary immersive festival, debuts in Bengaluru this week

Awakening curiosity Some of the artists and installations at The Sixth Sense. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sensory smorgasbord

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Art and technology may seem like opposites, but when they come together, they create a space where magic happens, says Lalindra Amarasekara, technical director, The Sixth Sense.

"Combining art and technology has always been experimental and explorative. We have created a platform where we bring together the diversity of both these elements," says Lalindra.

Taking place at Alembic City over a span of 18 days, The Sixth Sense is an immersive festival that aims to blend art, music, technology and nature, in an attempt to reconnect humans with the natural world. Conceptualised by Swordfish, the minds behind Echoes of Earth, The Sixth Sense will allow visitors to experience "large-scale digital installations, spatial sound performances, interactive environments, and participatory workshops".

The workshops will be held in collaboration with The NODE Institute from Germany who will present TouchDesigner sessions, an initiative that will see creative coders, digital artists and experience designers from around the world, work and learn together.

According to Roshan Netalkar, founder-director of Echoes of Earth and Swordfish, "a festival of this kind brings the essence of nature in a digitised and immersive manner, with new media as a canvas."

Roshan says The Sixth Sense was born out of Echoes. "Though we would spend close to a year building Echoes, its duration was only two days, unfolding in a fast-paced setting where people were unable to spend enough time with the concept notes or installations."

"We wanted to slow down this process of learning, and at the same time, use technology in a positive way for knowledge transfer. That is how we came up with this format to have a larger conversation with audiences."

Lalindra adds, "Art has gravitated towards technology, and a lot of forward thinking with regard to technology happens through art. The festival is not only a platform that brings together artists and technologists, but is also an opportunity to build collaborations."

The Sixth Sense will be set in Alembic City, a 60-year-old factory, where as many as 22 art installations qualified by nature, will be showcased.

"Designed as a walkthrough, there is physical information, digitised, immersive experiences, sound and sonic installations, and more. Almost every concept has an artistic interpretation here. For instance, there is a collaborative work between multiple parties where data from bats has been created into an installation with lasers," says Roshan.

According to Udit Amin, managing director, Alembic Global Holdings SA, the venue has been designed "as a walkable campus, which is quiet, sustainable, and the cars are out".

"We wanted to present art as a different way of life as opposed to the mundane, humdrum existence happening all around. Digital media, light-and sound-based equipment, and other aspects of technology have been used to create different medium to showcase art."

Udit adds, "I would advise people to utilise the metro as it stops at our gate."

Lalindra says the festival is not about showcasing technology neither is it for a specific audience. "We are here to deliver an interesting and engaging new experience for everyone. One need not know how the system works, in order to appreciate it; The Sixth Sense can be enjoyed by all."

He adds every participating artist has ably comprehended and depicted the theme of "nature's intelligence" in their work. He mentions The Banyan Tree by Berlin-based Stephen Bontly is an installation that "brings together thought and tech."

"It is a responsive piece which moves with the people in the room. The connect we feel with a tree is amplified here and what we sense is visibly experienced with this installation."

Every exhibit is different, having been created by digital, audio and visual artists, working with hardware, sensors, protocols that communicate with devices and so much more. As result, the technology used to support each installation is multifaceted.

Lalindra says every piece has an underlying story that unravels as one walks through the exhibits, and he encourages visitors to focus on taking in this "visceral experience" in its entirety, at a leisurely pace.

The workshops, sessions and masterclasses curated by The NODE Institute will cover a range of topics including experience design, data visualisation, lighting, AI, and live visual performance.

The workshops which began on February 5 will continue till February 11, with TouchDesigner sessions scheduled for February 12 and 13.

The Sixth Sense is underway at Alembic City, Whitefield, till February 22. Schedule of events and tickets starting at ₹1,499 are available at thesixthsensefestival.com

A complex Kannada debut

From medicine and theatre to cinema across languages, Ravindra Vijay reflects on his journey and his complex role in *Theertharoopa Thandeavarige*

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A long time coming Ravindra Vijay as Professor Shivshankar in *Theertharoopa Thandeavarige*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Many people, including actors, directors, and film critics, have one question to ask Ravindra Vijay after the success of his recent Kannada film *Theertharoopa Thandeavarige*. Despite being fluent in the language and having worked in the film industry for 10 years, why did it take him so long to feature in a Kannada movie?

His answer is one without any frills. He did not get a good role till *Theertharoopa Thandeavarige*. A coffee and a walk in the park with the film director Ramenahalli Jagannatha turned into a dream role.

"I felt a sense of loss for not being part of a Kannada project after making my cinema debut in 2016," Ravindra says from Kempegowda International Airport en route to Hyderabad. "I am so happy it happened with *Theertharoopa Thandeavarige*, because the character has depth."

From a first-generation doctor in the family to a first-generation actor, Ravindra's career has taken an interesting shift. A Bengaluru boy, he practised medicine for a year before shifting to theatre, and then eventually cinema. "The end goal was theatre and not cinema, but somewhere along the way, cinema happened, and I decided to give it a shot."

Ravindra's character, Professor Shivshankar, in *Theertharoopa Thandeavarige*, a father who disappears after a traumatic incident, is morally complex.

He is not an ideal father, Ravindra says. "He is flawed, and afraid of society. I feel that if the character cried in the film, which he doesn't until the end, his grief would have decreased. This struck me as very interesting. I had to make sure I balanced the emotion on screen, without overdoing or underplaying."

Ravindra credits the plot and the word of mouth for the film's successful theatrical run. "This was a fresh concept. People seem to identify with either the father, the mother, the protagonist, or the sister. The pain and the redemption arc connected with the audience."

Ravindra's career started with a small part in the Tamil film *Irudhi Suttru*, followed by a few roles in Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi. Landing the role of Muthu Pandian in season 2 of *The Family Man 2* opened the Hindi film industry for Ravindra with roles in *Sam Bahadur* and *Jawan*. "After *The Family Man*, I got offered many cop roles, which I eventually started turning down."

With projects such as *Keeda Cola*, *Mangalavaaram,* and *Ghaati* in Telugu and *Raghu Thatha* and *Kaantha* in Tamil, Ravindra got to play morally complex characters across languages.

Ravindra however, finds labels such as 'character artist' restrictive. "Labels would pigeonhole me. I am not particularly seeking out morally complex roles, but I find all interesting characters have shades of grey. Discovering the nuances and gradually layering a character makes the journey with any project worthwhile."

Ravindra's fluency in Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, and English makes him a strong option in many projects, especially with the current pan-India boom. "I don't have to dub for any language because I can speak almost all South Indian languages with fluency."

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In a different league The famous Mylari dosa comes to town. RAVICHANDRAN N

Mylari dosa pulls crowds

Mysuru's Old Original Vinayaka Mylari dosa makes its city debut, drawing long lines for the signature soft masala dosa with white butter and green sagu

A legend from Mysuru, the Old Original Vinayaka Mylari, now has an outlet in Indiranagar. Since 1938, the humble restaurant has been serving their signature masala dosas to celebrities and noted politicians. The soft dosa, home-made white butter and signature green sagu, is what makes this dosa unique.

The 'original' Mylari dosa

"My mother-in-law's mother-in-law started the restaurant in 1938. I am the third generation owner, and my son is the fourth. We have been following the same recipe all these years," says Usha Rani. "People have been asking us to open a branch in Bengaluru for years. But we did not. My son wanted to expand the brand's footprint. That is why we have started it in the city now."

The Bengaluru outlet, located on 80 Feet Road is already drawing a crowd. It was inaugurated by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on January 23, 2026. The CM is a fan of the dosa, and in May 2024 he had visited the Mysuru outlet and posted on X, "Today morning, while having breakfast at Mylari Hotel in Mysore, I remembered my college days. Mysore is not just my hometown but the place that gave me life. Even when physically far away, the memories of Mysore always remain close to my heart."

The menu has the classics– khali dosa, masala dosa, idli, kesari bath and filter coffee. And no, none of this is available on online delivery platforms.

On the line

The restaurant has two floors, with seating upstairs. It is a self-service setup, so be ready to wait in line, especially on weekends. A behind-the-scenes look into the kitchens reveal cooks busy flipping dosas. The sagu is added inside with military precision. When they are ready, each dosa is topped with a generous dollop of white butter that is made inhouse.

Without hesitating, we go straight for the masala dosa. It is spongy and fluffy, not the crispy kind. The mushy sagu is a secret recipe, but it is green and laced with onions. An interesting change from the conventional potato palya that accompanies Bengaluru dosas. The white butter and freshly made coconut chutney makes the whole dish extra tasty. There is no sambar here, but we do not miss it.

But will Bangaloreans like it? We spoke to diners in the restaurant. Few love the taste, while few feel the outlet in Mysuru has a charm that is missing here. It is always hard to live up to legacy.

Dosas are priced at ₹99. At HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru, 6.30am onwards.

STEPOUT

Reimagining heritage

Mookuthi, a nose ornament label from Chennai, will be coming to Bengaluru with its latest collection. These ornaments, which are rooted in South Indian cultural memory, are inspired by myriad sources, ranging from temple architecture to kolams drawn outside homes, and seek to reimagine heritage as a living, contemporary adornment.

At The House of Angadi, Sankey road, February 6-8, from 10.30am to 8pm

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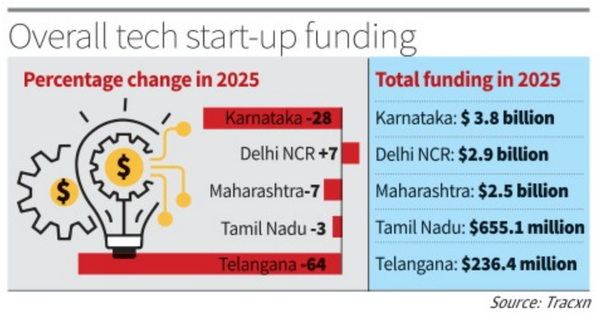
‘Overall funding dips, but investor interest rises in early stage start-ups in State’

In terms of the total capital raised, Karnataka, at $3.8 billion in 2025, remained ahead of its peers, notes a report recently released by market research firm Tracxn

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Seed-stage companies in Karnataka raised a total of $434 million in 2025. GETTY IMAGES



Karnataka-based tech companies recorded a year-on-year funding drop of 28% in 2025, notes a report recently released by market research firm Tracxn.

According to data from Tracxn, the State witnessed a significant percentage drop compared to geographies such as Maharashtra, Delhi NCR and Tamil Nadu. However, in terms of the total capital raised, Karnataka remained ahead of its peers.

Karnataka-based tech companies raised a total funding of $3.8 billion in 2025, a drop of 28% compared to the $5.4 billion raised in 2024. In contrast, Delhi NCR witnessed a 7% rise and Maharashtra witnessed a 7% drop in overall tech funding in the corresponding period, as per data from Tracxn. While Telangana witnessed a 64% decline in funding, Tamil Nadu saw only a 3% drop.

However, the total funding amount raised by tech start-ups in these geographies in 2025 stood at $2.9 billion, $2.5 billion, $236.4 million and $655.1 million, respectively, lagging behind Karnataka.

The report titled *Karnataka Tech 2025* recorded a change in capital deployment patterns in the State. A 27% contraction in deal volume was seen during 2025. The drop in overall funding was attributed largely to a slowdown in late-stage investments.

Early-stage start-up funding witnessed a 32% rise from the previous year, with start-ups raising $1.6 billion. This also marked a 37% rise from the $1.1 billion raised in 2023.

However, more caution was observed in the seed stage and late stage funding.

Betting on innovation

Seed-stage companies in Karnataka raised a total of $434 million in 2025, marking a 17% decrease from the $520 million raised in 2024.

The funding drop in late-stage was even sharper, with companies raising only $1.8 billion in 2025, a 50% drop from the $3.6 billion raised in 2024.

According to Tracxn, this reflected investors' preference to bet on the next wave of innovation over scaling mature assets.

Madan Padaki, serial entrepreneur and former president of TiE Bangalore, notes that a large number of upcoming deeptech and AI start-ups are catching investor fancy, causing a spate of activity in the early stage segment.

"In the last many years, it is the unicorns in Bengaluru that hogged a significant portion of the overall funding. Valuations of many unicorns have dropped now and they have stopped raising significant capital. Many of them are in pursuit of profitability. So, founders themselves don't want more capital, and the investors also don't want to invest in them," says Mr. Padaki.

Rise of IPOs

He points out that many start-ups have also gone for IPOs and funding is coming in the form of capital markets.

The year that went by saw a rise in the number of public listings from the State. Nine companies took the IPO route in 2025 as against eight in 2024 and three in 2023.

Among the companies that got listed in 2025 are Groww, Meesho, and Ather Energy.

The ecosystem saw three unicorns created in 2025, as against five in 2024 and one in 2023.

Enterprise Applications, FinTech, and Retail were the top-performing sectors in Karnataka's tech ecosystem in 2025.

The Enterprise Applications sector recorded total funding of $1.1 billion in 2025, remaining in line with 2024.

FinTech companies raised $1 billion during the year, representing a 47% increase from 2024.

HDK's overtures on return to State politics create a flutter in NDA

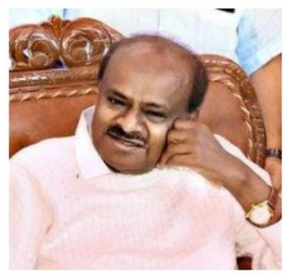
Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Amid internal bickering in the BJP, the pitch for Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy to return to State politics seems to have raised the heat in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

It is being seen as a threat to the political future of the BJP's State leaders and an indication of how the saffron party's own Central leadership assesses its local leaders.

The voices pitching Mr. Kumaraswamy, who is also the Janata Dal (Secular) State president, as the "next Chief Minister" has gathered momentum, particularly after the party's convention in January last week in Hassan where his son and party youth president Nikhil Kumaraswamy announced that his focus was on ensuring that his father occupies the top post, after 2028 polls.

Mr. Kumaraswamy also acknowledged that his party workers want him back. Days prior to this, an AI-generated titled "Daddy is Back", featuring Mr. Kumaraswamy, had also gone viral.



H.D. Kumaraswamy

This talk is also coming at a time when the elections to corporations in the Greater Bengaluru Authority region, zilla panchayats and taluk panchayats are around the corner. Though the alliance partners are yet to hammer out seat-sharing arrangements, the regional party is keen to retain its strength and identity in its stronghold – the Vokkaliga-dominated Old Mysore region.

A senior BJP leader said that the party leadership in Delhi could promote Mr. Kumaraswamy as the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) face in Karnataka, at least as "a temporary arrangement".

"Without the concurrence of the BJP central leadership, he will not risk projecting himself as the chief ministerial face. But this could be only till the time BJP decides on its own leadership since most leaders in BJP at this point of time do not have connect with the masses," he argued. The retirement from active politics of former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, who was a crowd puller, is being felt by the party, sources said.

According to a BJP legislator, the central leadership also feels that there is a vacuum in the absence of former Chief Ministers Basavaraj Bommai and Jagadish Shettar, and former Minister Kota Srinivas Poojary, inside the legislature. Sources aware of the developments in the JD (S) confirmed that Mr. Kumaraswamy's posturing had "tacit blessings" from the BJP central leadership, and he had been asked to return to State politics at an "opportune time".

"However, there have been no formal talks on Mr. Kumaraswamy being the NDA face within the alliance," said the sources.

Heartburn in BJP

The sources also conceded that there was heartburn among the senior leaders in the party over Mr. Kumaraswamy's posturing.

"Leaders are worried that there could be a power-sharing agreement allowing Mr. Kumaraswamy to head for partial term if the alliance comes to power post 2028," a leader said.

Multiple sources said that the BJP was now being seen as a divided house with multiple aspiring leaders, though united in their discomfort over the overtures of Mr. Kumaraswamy and this prospect.

Acknowledging that there was a tacit campaign being built around "Kumaranna Again" for the Chief Minister's post, another JD (S) source, however, said that this would not be against the BJP State leadership.

"As a regional party, we have our right to protect our party, identity and project our leader. He is also the party's State president and his politics will be in the State. We are strengthening the party and we have started preparing the party for elections," the source said.

Backward taluks likely to get more funds

PRE-BUDGET MEETING

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a meeting with officials of several departments in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who also holds the Finance portfolio, on Thursday began the exercise for the 2026-27 State Budget by holding meetings with several departments.

More funds are likely to be allocated for infrastructure development in backward taluks identified by the M. Govinda Rao Committee on regional imbalances.

The Chief Minister chaired meetings with Ministers handling Environment and Forests, Home, Labour, Mines and Geology, Horticulture, and Tourism, during which proposals for inclusion in the forthcoming Budget were discussed.

Sources said the 172 backward taluks identified by the Govinda Rao Committee are expected to receive increased infrastructure investments, as the panel had recommended an additional ₹43,914 crore over five years (2026-27 to 2031-32) across various sectors to address infrastructure deficits.

A substantial portion of the State's revenue is expected to be spent on implementing the government's welfare "guarantees", as in previous years.

Meanwhile, Ministers and legislators belonging to the Dalit community, including H.C. Mahadevappa, K.H. Muniyappa, and Shivaraj Tangadagi, held a meeting a few days ago and reportedly expressed dissatisfaction over the utilisation/diversion of funds under the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (SCSP-TSP). In 2025-26, the government had earmarked ₹42,018 crore for SCSP-TSP.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara said funds had been released to departments but were not being properly utilised, and demanded that allocations be strictly used for the welfare of SC/ST communities.

Dr. Parameshwara said the next Budget should prioritise education and healthcare for SC/ST communities. He also stressed the need for hostels, industrial plots, and effective implementation of reservation in government contracts and recruitment.

Shivalinge Gowda blames BJP for provoking him to speak rudely, regrets remarks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after the conclusion of the legislature session, Congress MLA K.M. Shivalinge Gowda on Thursday said BJP legislators Sharanu Salagar and Vedavyasa Kamath had targeted and provoked him, leading to his remarks against the RSS and the BJP in the Legislative Assembly. He expressed regret over referring to Mr. Salagar's wife during the debate.

Mr. Gowda's alleged unparliamentary remarks against BJP MLAs had triggered noisy scenes in the Assembly on Wednesday. Opposition legislators staged a dharna in the Well of the House, demanding that Mr. Gowda apologise. Mr. Salagar's wife was the tahsildar of Basavakalyan, and Mr. Gowda alleged that the MLA had looted the money through her.

Addressing a press conference here, the Arsikere MLA said BJP members abused him when he was speaking on the restoration of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

He said the BJP had failed to act as a responsible Opposition during the special session. "I spoke about Mr. Salagar's wife and I regret speaking about a woman. Other than that, I do not regret anything else," he said.

KIC claims to be fastest in disposing of second appeal petitions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Information Commission (KIC) has claimed to be the fastest in the country in disposing of second appeal petitions and has cleared 36,474 appeals in the last one year along with recommendations for fines and disciplinary action against officers who did not provide information.

"The State government had appointed eight Information Commissioners to KIC on February 4, 2025. From 2023 to February 2025, only three Commissioners were working. Due to this, the disposal of petitions was slow. However, the disposal of second appeal petitions has gained momentum in the past one year," the KIC said in a statement on Thursday.

"In February 2025, a total of 69,471 petitions were pending for hearing, including the newly filed petitions. The Commission has disposed of 36,474 petitions in the past one year and only 32,997 second appeal petitions are pending disposal," the statement said.

"The speedy disposal of petitions is due to the training workshop on the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, conducted by the Commission for Public Information Officers (PIOs) and First Appellate Authorities at the district level. Such workshops have been held in 23 districts so far.," KIC added.

Further the KIC said it had declared the Karnataka Milk Federation and the Electronic City Industrial Township Authority, which had not provided information under RTI Act, 2005 earlier, as public authorities.

Public Information Officers who do not provide information within the stipulated period and who do not appear before the Commission for hearing were being fined. The maximum fine is ₹25,000. The law also provides for compensation to the applicant along with the fine. The Commission has imposed a fine of ₹45.29 lakh on 245 officers in a period of one year. "Failure to pay the fine will make it difficult to get retirement benefits," it warned. It has recommended that RTI should be included as a subject in all recruitment and examinations related to the promotion of officers, school and college textbooks.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage Tender System from eligible Contractors for the following Works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount
	Office of the Chief Engineer (UWP), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.	
	IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(UWP)/ACE(WWM-VV-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/562/2025-26	**Date: 05-02-2026**
1	Work of Providing and Laying of 400 - 1400 mm Dia Sewer Lines at Missing Bits of S4C in Various Locations of Kathriguppe Valley. **(2nd Call)**	**Rs. 202.64 Lakhs** / **Rs. 3.04 Lakhs**
	For above works, Last Date for Receipt of Tenders: **16-02-2026 upto 17.00 Hours.** Technical Bids will be Opened on: **17-02-2026 at 17.30 Hours.**	
	IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(UWP)/ACE(WWM-VV-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/565/2025-26	**Date: 05-02-2026**
2	Work of Providing and Laying 600 mm Diameter DWC and 1000 mm Diameter RCC NP3 Sewer Pipeline from Gokula Apartment (Surrounding Areas of Nandini Layout) to Ramakrishna Nagar.	**Rs. 715.79 Lakhs** / **Rs. 10.74 Lakhs**
	IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(UWP)/ACE(WWM-VV-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/567/2025-26	**Date: 05-02-2026**
3	Work of Providing and Laying 1200 mm RCC NP3 Trunk Sewer Pipeline from 9th Main Road to 35th Main, Jai Maruthi Nagar further Linking to Mailasandra STP.	**Rs. 725.67 Lakhs** / **Rs. 10.89 Lakhs**
	For above works, Last Date for Receipt of Tenders: **07-03-2026 upto 17.30 Hours.** Technical Bids will be Opened on: **09-03-2026 at 11.00 Hours.** **Sd/- Chief Engineer (UWP)**	
	Office of the Chief Engineer (Central), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.	
	IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(Central)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/106/2025-26	**Date: 05-02-2026**
4	Work of Road Restoration for the Tender Work of RCC NP-3 Class Sewer Pipeline UGD Work from 1st 'A' Cross to 2nd Main D'mart Koramangala.	**Rs. 150.53 Lakhs** / **Rs. 2.25 Lakhs**
	IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(Central)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/108/2025-26	**Date: 05-02-2026**
5	Work of Providing Services to De-silt Sewer Sub-Main / Main Lines through 02 Nos. of Truck Mounted High Capacity Suction and Jetting Machines with Sewage Water Re-cycling System Mounted on 25T GVW BS-IV Truck Chassis for a period of 12 months under EE (WWM)-T Valley Division.	**Rs. 255.31 Lakhs** / **Rs. 5.11 Lakhs**
	For above works, Last Date for Receipt of Tenders: **20-02-2026 upto 16.00 Hours.** Bids will be Opened on: **21-02-2026 at 17.00 Hours.** **Sd/- Chief Engineer (Central)**	

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement Process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/Adverto/5453/2025-26

Birth centenary fete GSS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The birth centenary celebrations of Rashtrakavi G.S. Shivarudrappa (GSS) will be held on Saturday by Department of Kannada and Culture, in collaboration with the Rashtrakavi G.S. Shivarudrappa Pratistana, Rashtrakavi G.S.S. Vishwastha Mandali, and the Karnataka Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi.

The event will be held at Gandhi Bhavan, Kumarakrupa Road, from 10.30 a.m.

Bengaluru–Pune-Mumbai high-speed rail proposal gains momentum

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil on Thursday welcomed the move by Union Ministers Prahlad Joshi and H.D. Kumaraswamy to take up the proposal for a Bengaluru-Pune-Mumbai high-speed rail corridor, with Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

M.B. Patil

Speaking to the media, Mr. Patil said he had flagged the need for the corridor immediately after the Union Budget and stressed that the initiative should move beyond discussions to implementation. "There is no politics involved. The proposal must be taken to its logical conclusion," he said.

Mr. Patil noted the need for efficient, world-class connectivity between Bengaluru, India's technology hub, and Mumbai, the country's financial capital. Such a corridor, he said, would catalyse economic and industrial growth across central and north Karnataka and western Maharashtra.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting the Union Budget 2026-27 on Sunday (February 1, 2026), announced seven high-speed rail (HSR) corridors across the country, describing them as "growth connectors".

Among the corridors listed, the Hyderabad-Bengaluru and Chennai-Bengaluru routes are expected to directly link Bengaluru with two other State capitals. However, Mr. Patil said that a Bengaluru-Pune-Mumbai high-speed rail corridor should also have been announced, as it would bring wider economic benefits to Karnataka.

Cabinet clears AI-powered software to identify hate speech, misinformation

H.K. Patil says there will be no human interference in this, and that no party or government will benefit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Content on social media and other digital platforms could come under the scanner as the Karnataka government will deploy AI-powered 'Social Media Analytics Solution' software to identify hate speech, misinformation and malicious campaigns in news and advertising.

The AI-based software will be used to assess misinformation, disinformation, hate speech and harmful narratives, especially for safety of women, children, and the public. The decision to deploy the AI-powered software at the cost of ₹67.26 crore was arrived at during the Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

H.K. Patil

"This is not only for fact checking, but also to identify manipulation on social media platforms and digital media platforms. Right now, the AI software will be deployed to assess. Law will come later and action will be initiated," Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil told pressmen persons during the post-Cabinet briefing.

On the legal standing of screening of content, the Minister said, "I think there is no absolute bar to screen or verify criminal intentions or manipulation." He also clarified that this would not be applicable to news media outlets. "Fake media banners and houses will, however, not be spared," he said. Mr. Patil also said that there will be no human interference in this, and that no party or government will benefit.

The Cabinet note said that the software would be developed adhering to guidelines on data sovereignty and data localisation, and cloud architecture would be developed adhering to the guidelines of MeitY. It also pointed out that the Department of IT/BT has after evaluation found the importance of IDTU project in controlling the spread of misinformation ahead of Lok Sabha elections.

The proposed software will be proprietary algorithm, which will be dynamic and continuously renewed AI/ ML units since there is a threat of misinformation evolving and fixed algorithm was not an answer. There will be real-time alerts and geo-specific threat mapping. It would help in identifying new-age misinformation, hate speech, deep fakes, bot networks, multi-language narratives, and subject-based manipulations.

Govt. to send clarification to President on hate speech Bill

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot referring the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025, for the consideration of the President, the State government is set to send all information and explanation on it to her by next week.

It will be a detailed and point-to-point rebuttal, said sources.

The BJP had opposed the Bill, stating that it would infringe on the freedom of expression.

Kerala leaves two posts of non-Muslims vacant on Waqf Board

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

The State government reconstituted the Kerala Waqf Board on Wednesday leaving the two posts reserved for non-Muslims vacant and bringing on board representatives of politically significant Muslim sects.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Democratic Front government also retained its confidant, M.K. Sakkeer, as the chairperson of the committee, which was reconstituted after the recent enactment of the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act.

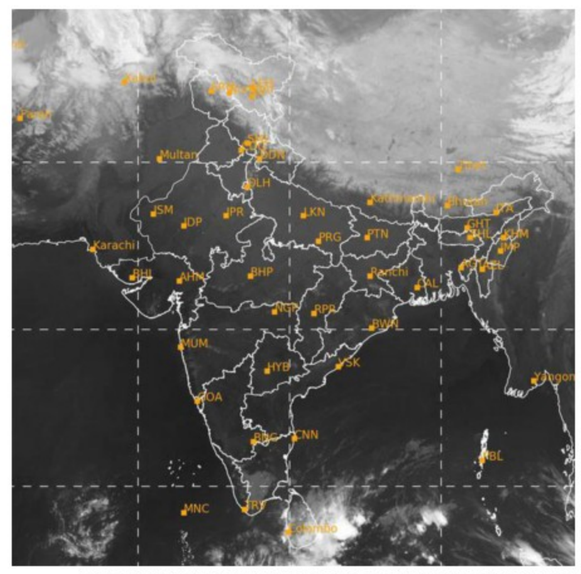
The non-Muslims are to be brought on board in the category reserved for a person who has professional experience in business management, social work, finance or revenue, agriculture and development activities and a person who is a member of the Bar Council. The government has indicated in the notification that nominations to the the posts will be made shortly.

The State government reportedly chose to leave the posts reserved for non-Muslims vacant to signal that it is not in a hurry to implement the provisions of the Act that was stiffly opposed by Muslim organisations. The decision is being viewed as an attempt by the government to keep the minority communities in good humour, ahead of the Assembly polls.

Incidentally, the Madras High Court had earlier prevented the Tamil Nadu Board from exercising any powers and functions under the Act as the Tamil Nadu government too had left the two posts unfilled.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Dense fog likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.4	13.2	Kozhikode	—	34.2	24.0
Ahmedabad	—	30.2	18.6	Kurnool	—	33.6	19.4
Aizawl	—	28.0	11.4	Lucknow	—	23.9	9.5
Allahabad	—	24.0	10.4	Madurai	—	32.0	23.1
Bengaluru	—	29.8	15.7	Mangaluru	—	34.0	21.3
Bhopal	—	25.4	13.0	Mumbai	—	35.1	20.5
Bhubaneswar	—	31.7	14.5	Mysuru	—	31.4	16.0
Chandigarh	—	23.1	7.2	New Delhi	—	23.9	10.2
Chennai	—	31.1	21.0	Patna	—	24.8	14.1
Coimbatore	—	31.2	20.0	Port Blair	—	31.0	25.8
Dehradun	—	25.9	9.0	Puducherry	—	29.7	20.6
Gangtok	—	18.6	7.5	Pune	—	32.2	18.5
Goa	—	35.4	22.5	Raipur	—	30.7	18.4
Guwahati	—	28.5	14.5	Ranchi	—	26.2	13.0
Hubballi	—	31.0	16.0	Shillong	—	18.4	8.0
Hyderabad	—	29.0	18.6	Shimla	—	17.4	6.0
Imphal	—	24.9	8.6	Srinagar	—	11.2	-0.4
Jaipur	—	25.1	12.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.7	23.2
Kochi	—	31.4	24.2	Tiruchi	—	29.1	21.4
Kohima	—	18.7	8.8	Vijayawada	—	30.6	19.7
Kolkata	—	28.0	15.8	Visakhapatnam	—	31.0	20.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.81	..70	34	 72	...160	
Bengaluru	...6	..31	17	... 150	...122	
Chennai	...9	..13	51	 75	96	
Delhi	.11	220	47	... 278	...208	
Hyderabad	...5	..10	61	... 134	...137	
Kolkata	.10	138	40	... 205	...184	
Lucknow	...9	..52	70	... 114	...155	
Mumbai	.28	..84	19	... 112	...155	
Pune	..—	..73	38	... 251	...184	
Visakhapatnam	...6	..52	19	... 160	...143	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ballabgarh, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 302 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 26

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Amendment to panchayat raj Act to introduce ballot papers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet has decided to bring an amendment through the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026, to reintroduce ballot papers in the local body election. The decision was taken to bring transparency and secrecy in elections, a note said, adding that the government had decided to drop EVMs from the election process.

The Cabinet also decided to bring amendment through Karnataka Police (Amendment) bill, 2026, to allow Police Establishment Board to transfer officials who have been suspended following dereliction of duty, gross negligence and misconduct.

Sources said that currently because of the two-year tenure, the law had not permitted transfer of such officials though being suspended.

The government has also decided to announce a one-time settlement scheme (OTS) for those who had availed themselves of loans from Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation between 2013 and 2019 when about ₹800 crore had been disbursed to beneficiaries under various schemes.

Laddu 'adulteration' case: A.P. govt. sets up one-man panel to 'fix accountability'

G.V.R. Subba Rao
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has launched a sharp political and moral offensive against the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) over the alleged adulteration of the Tirumala laddu prasadam, terming it a "grave betrayal of devotees' faith" and asserting that no investigative agency has given a clean chit to the previous regime.

Declaring zero tolerance on matters linked to religious sanctity, the Chief Minister warned that intimidation, misinformation, or political pressure would not deter the government from fixing accountability.

Addressing the media after a meeting of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) leaders on Thursday, Mr. Naidu announced the constitution of a one-man committee to examine the findings of the investigative agencies, and fix accountability.

N. Chandrababu Naidu

The sanctity of the prasadam was compromised during the YSRCP's tenure, he said.

Mr. Naidu alleged that a 2022 warning by the Central Food Technological Research Institute regarding possible adulteration of ghee used in laddu preparation was deliberately suppressed by the previous government, allowing the malpractice to continue unchecked.

"The State government has decided to constitute a one-man committee to examine all reports, identify lapses, fix responsibility, and recommend further action, including legal follow-up if required," he said.

Kerala Assembly resolution seeks MGNREGS restoration

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Assembly on Thursday passed a resolution demanding that the Union government restore the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) framework by withdrawing the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G).

"VB-G RAM G entails severe financial burden on the States. With its introduction, the rights-based approach that was the essence of the existing (MGNREG) scheme has vanished," said the resolution presented by Minister for Local Self-Government M.B. Rajesh. Under the new system, it falls upon the States to provide unemployment wages and compensation for delayed payment of wages, it said.

While the Centre retains the power to decide the share of the States, the latter are held fully responsible for the additional burdens arising from the scheme, the resolution said.

The resolution was passed amid Opposition protests in the House over the Sabarimala gold theft issue.

SC upholds Telangana HC ruling against free land to IAMC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has refused to intervene in a Telangana High Court judgment which set aside the free-of-cost allotment of land to the International Arbitration & Mediation Centre (IAMC), an institution whose deed was authored by then Chief Justice of India in 2021.

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Civil Engineering Department, 5th Floor, Shanthinagar TTMC, K.H. Road, Bengaluru-560027 Website : www.mybmtc.com
No.BMTC/CO/CE/EE/1579/2025-26 Dated:05.02.2026

E-PROCUREMENT SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No.14/2025-26

Tender is invited for the works of **(1) "Hardening, Asphalting to Vacant land (KSRTC Land), Construction of Storm water drain with Kerb and Providing Portable Container cabin Restroom with Toilets at Attibele Bus station (Call-2)".** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 64.25 Lakhs** and EMD: **Rs. 1,28,500/-, (2) "Repairs and Maintenance to Sewage Treatment Plant of ITPL TTMC at Depot-18, Bengaluru (Call-2)"**. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 12.35 Lakhs** and EMD: **Rs. 31,000/-** and **(3) "Providing essential repairs and improvement works to Employees Quarters at Shanthinagara, Bengaluru".** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 21.20 Lakhs** and EMD: **Rs. 50,000/-.** Participating bidders shall refer the e-procurement website:**kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for details. Any other information required can be obtained from this office. **(1)** Last date for receipt of tenders:**13.02.2026. (2)** Date of opening of Tender:**16.02.2026.**

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BMTC

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our client has negotiated with Mr. K.G. Kodandarama, S/o. Late V. Giddana Reddy, aged about 64 years, residing at No. 648, 21st Cross, 23rd Main, HSR Layout, Bengaluru - 560102 to purchase the Schedule Property for valuable consideration. It is represented to our client that Mr. K.G. Kodandarama, S/o. Late V. Giddana Reddy, is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property and he has acquired the Schedule Property under the Sale Deed dated 14th June 2024, registered as document No. HSK-1-04615-2024-25, with the office of the Sub Registrar, Hoskote, executed by Karnataka Housing Board, Kaveri Bhavan. Any person(s) claiming any right, title or interest of whatsoever nature over the Schedule Property is called upon to lodge such claim with the undersigned, with supporting documents within 12 days from the date of this publication. In the event no such claim(s) is received within the stipulated time, it shall be lawful for our client to presume that there are no valid claim(s) adverse to Mr. K.G. Kodandarama's right, title and interest in the Schedule Property and proceeds with the proposed sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No. 107 LIG, Property No. 107, E-PID No.150300402000320469, Measuring East to West 9 mts. and North to South 12 mts., totally measuring 108 Sq. mts (1162 Sq. Feet) situated at Bellikere Village, Muthsandra Grama Panchayath, Aanagondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, and bounded on the: East by: Site No. 106 LIG, West by : Site No. 108 LIG, North by : 9.00 Meter Road and South by : Site No.89 MIG.

M/s. B K Legal,
office at No. 16, Sanjay Nagar, Taluk Office Road, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru-560 036.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Dr. T.P. Jose, (Jose T P) S/o Late Mr. T.P. Porinchu Jose, aged about 79 years residing at No.24/1, Davis Road, Cooke Town, Bangalore-560 084, is the owner of the schedule property namely the residential building constructed on bearing nos. 48 and 49, House List Khata No.213/3, Old Sl.no.150/1A, BBMP PID No.1271/213/3 situate at Hormavu Agara, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore. Having acquired the schedule property on 19th January 2006 as a vacant site from one Sri. C.R. Raghavendra Reddy, vide Registered Document No.12986/2005-06. My client has put up the residential construction in the year 2009. My client's vendor had in turn acquired the property vide Registered Sale Deed dated 21.04.2005, and which is duly registered as Document No.2208/2005-06. This parent title deed has been lost in transit whilst in possession. In this behalf he has lodged a complaint in jurisdictional police registered as lost article report no.2034544/2026 dated 30.01.2026.

My client declares that the said document of title is not pledged, mortgaged or deposited with any person/s, bank/financial institutions/NBFC and no sum or loan has been availed against the said document or against the schedule property, and state that the schedule property is free from all encumbrances.

Public are hereby informed that if any person having found and or is in possession of the Original Sale Deed dated 19.01.2006 they may please contact and hand over the same to the undersigned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land and building bearing site Nos. 48 and 49, House List Khata No.213/3, old Survey No.150/1A, BBMP PID No.1271/213/3, situate at Hormavu Agara, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 113 feet and North to South 80 feet, totalling in all 9040 square feet; together with the ground floor RCC building measuring about 1950 square feet with garage and security room (AC Sheet) measuring 285 square feet and first floor RCC structure measuring about 470 square feet, and bounded as follows:- East By : Site No.50; West By : 2nd Main Road; North By : 35 Feet Road; and South By : Site Nos. 46 and 47;

P.B. Raju, Advocate
843/A, 100 Feet Road, 1st Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560 038.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-TENDER NOTICE No. B/TRD.2025-26/36 Dt: 30.01.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Item of work	Approx.Value
Bangalore Division- Provision of SCADA Simulator system for TPC Operations	Rs. 24,98,927.00/-

Period of Completion : 03 Months

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 20.02.2026**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Bengaluru
PUB/868/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the **UTS** Moblie App from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-TENDER NOTICE No. B/TRD.2025-26/38 Dt: 30.01.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Item of work	Approx.Value
Provision of nylon mesh of TTC and portals for preventing bird nest in Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 53,36,100.00/-

Period of Completion : 10 Months

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 20.02.2026**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Bengaluru
PUB/869/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
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PUBLIC NOTICE
(LOST OF DOCUMENTS)

Notice is hereby given to the general public that Mr. Manjunath H.R., aged about 39 years, Designated Partner of AKKRUTHI LIVESPACES LLP, having its office at No. 227, Rain Tree Plaza, 4th Floor, 10th Main, 100 Feet Road, HRBR Layout, 1st Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru – 560043, has lost certain original land documents while travelling to Hoskote in connection with an official business meeting on 31.10.2025. The said original documents were lost at Hoskote and, despite best efforts made to trace the same, they could not be found. The lost documents pertain to land parcels situated at Jinnagara Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

List of Lost Documents:

1. Sale Deed dated 14.08.2006 registered as Document No. HSK-1 04300/ 2006-07, stored in CD No. HSKD72
2. Sale Deed dated 14.08.2006 registered as Document No. HSK-1-04298/ 2006-07, stored in CD No. HSKD72
3. Sale Deed dated 27.06.2006 registered as Document No. HSK-1-04328/ 2006-07, stored in CD No. HSKD72
4. Sale Deed dated 27.06.2006 registered as Document No. HSK-1-04329/ 2006-07, stored in CD No. HSKD72
5. General Power of Attorney dated 29.05.2006 registered as Document No. 133/2006-07, stored in CD No. HSKD64
6. General Power of Attorney dated 29.05.2006 registered as Document No. 134/2006-07, stored in CD No. HSKD64
7. Sale Deed dated 18.08.2006 registered as Document No. HSK-1-04300/ 2006-07, stored in CD No. HSKD72
8. Sale Deed dated 22.06.2006 registered as Document No. HSK-1-02522/ 2006-07, stored in CD No. HSKD66
9. General Power of Attorney dated 18.03.2006 registered as Document No. HSK-4-00540/2005-06, stored in CD No. HSKD57
10. General Power of Attorney dated 12.07.2006 registered as Document Nos. HAK-4-00252/2006-07 & 251/2006-07, stored in CD No. HSKD68
11. Notarised General Power of Attorney dated 29.10.2024, executed by B. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy in favour of B. V. Bhaskar

Any person who finds or is in possession of the above-mentioned original documents, or who has any claim, objection, or information relating thereto, is requested to contact above address Akkruthi Livespaces LLP at Off. No. 080-25455477 or inform the Hoskote Police Station, Bengaluru Rural District, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which certified copies / duplicate documents shall be obtained and no claims shall be entertained thereafter.

Place: Bengaluru **Date: 05.02.2026**

Government of Karnataka
National Health Mission
District Health and F.W. Society,
DISTRICT HEALTH AND F.W. OFFICE KALABURAGI
No:NRHM/RCHO/NOC/Klb/65/2025-26 Date: 04/02/2026

TENDER

1) Commodity: 22 Vehicles on the basis of outsource for the team of RBSK to the 7 taluka Health office . Under RBSK Programme. 4 Wheeler Vehicle (4+1 Seated Capacity & 2020 & above Model)-20 Vehicles and District Programme Manager -1 , City Programme Manager-1 (6+1 Seated Capacity 2023 & above Model) Called for Vehicle Tenders Services by registered Tours & Travels/ Vehicle owner/Agency for Providing Vehicles with Drivers
2) Approximate Amount: **As Per KPPP Portal,**
3) Details of Tender EMD : **Total 22 Vehicles: Tender Details (With Air condition).**

Programme	Rs. Per Month Per Vehicle	No. of Vehicles	No. of Months	Per Year Amount	EMD Amount Total Vehicle	EMD Per Vehicle
RBSK Vehicles	35,000/-	20	12	84,00,000/-	2,10,000/-	10500/-
DPM Vehicle	40,000/-	1	12	4,80,000/-	12000/-	12000/-
CPM Vehicle	40,000/-	1	12	4,80,000/-	12000/-	12000/-

4) Starting Date of Submission of Tender form: **04/02/2026 Morning 11:00**, 5) Pre Bid Meeting Date and Time: **07/02/2026 Morning 11:00,** 6) Last Date of Submission of Tender form: **14/02/2026 Evening 4:30**, 7) Opening Date of Technical Bid: **16/02/2026 Evening 5:30,** 8) Opening Date of Financial Bid: **19/02/2026, Morning 11:00,** 9) Contact for More Details: Member Secretary, District Health & F.W Society, Kalaburagi PH.No 08472-278620.

Sd/- Member Secretary
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1050/KSMC&A/2025-26 **District Health & F.W Society, Kalaburagi**

Government of Karnataka
(Department of School Education)
KARNATAKA TEXT BOOK SOCIETY ®
6th cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003,
E-mail: mdktbs.tender@gmail.com Website:https://textbooks.karnataka.gov.in
No: A7/76785/KTBS/ADM/TBTR/9/2025 Date: 05.02.2026
(e-Procurement Tender hosted No: KTBS/2025-26/IND0017)

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)

15 days Short term Tender is invited under Two Bid System for the year 2026-27 on Government of Karnataka e-procurement platform from eligible printers, having Infrastructure as specified in the Tender Document to print and supply Textbooks for Students of Class 1 to 12, Workbooks for class 4 to 9th and student diaries to class1 to 12. Printing and supply of pre-primary bilingual Workbooks and diaries, Value education Textbooks to students of class 1 to 10 and Maru Sinchana activity books to students of class 6 to 10 of Government Schools. Package wise payable EMD details are mentioned under section 10 of the tender document.

Eligible printers may offer their bidding **up to 5.30 PM on 19.02.2026**. Tender document is available in e-portal as well as department website.

e-Procurement portal address: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in,** Portal Help line: +91-9240214000 / +91-9240214001 Department Website: **https://textbooks.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Managing Director,
Karnataka Text Book Society, Bengaluru.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

DRM (TRD & GSU) NWR Ajmer on behalf of The President of India invites E - Tenders for the following work up to 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. **Tender No.:** DRM-TRD-26-2025-26, **Name of work:** AII/TRD-Reconditioning of Existing TRD Danger/ Caution boards, bonding & regulating Equipment through Replacement and Painting over Ajmer Division, **Approximate cost of work:** Rs. 93,43,368.00, **Bid Security:** Rs. 1,86,900/-, **Tender No.:** DRM-TRD-27-2025-26, **Name of work: A.** AII/TRD Provision of Model OHE facility, IOL/PTFE shifting work and replacement of highly corroded rusty cantilevers (MDL-BHL section) over Ajmer Division, B. AII/ TRD: Conversion of 25KV underground cabling system to overhead feeder system for SIM TSS and PDWA TSS of Ajmer Division. C. AII/TRD- Provision of standard OHE arrangement at platform over Ajmer Division. **D.** AII /TRD- Provision of spare Mast/Portal and additional T&Ps for improvement of testing facilities over Ajmer Division. **Approximate cost of work:** Rs. 5,65,51,879.80, **Bid Security:** Rs. 4,32,800/-. **Date & Time of closing E-Tender:** 24.02.2026 at 15.00 Hrs., **Date & Time of opening E-Tender:** 24.02.2026 at 15.30 Hrs. The details of above E-tender are available on website www.ireps.gov.in

177-PS/26

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Intent and outcome

India must match its climate ambitions with higher allocations

Union Budgets began reflecting greater climate concerns from 2021, in the thick of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a modest ₹4,500 crore to localise solar photovoltaic production and to reduce India's dependence on Chinese imports. But there has been a cautious, disjointed approach to the scale and allocations. While five broad sectors (cement, steel, aluminium and fertilizers; decentralised solar power; greening irrigation pump sets; green hydrogen; and nuclear energy) received attention in Budget 2026-27, the most prominent announcement was the proposed five-year outlay of ₹20,000 crore for Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS). This is a modest provision for a suite of costly and complex technologies. The allocation signals that India is entering a pilot and demonstration phase, rather than embarking on immediate industrial deployment. While operational examples exist in Norway, Canada and the U.S., scaling CCUS has proven expensive and uneven. The technology is primarily relevant to sectors where emissions are embedded in the production process. The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will impose carbon costs on imports of high-emission products, so for India, decarbonising industrial production is no longer only a climate imperative. It is now a question of export competitiveness, particularly for steel and aluminium, which form the bulk of India's CBAM-exposed exports to the EU.

The Budget also substantially scales up the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana rooftop solar scheme – ₹22,000 crore in 2026-27 from ₹17,000 crore (RE) for the current year. It is a welcome push towards decentralised energy systems that reduce land pressure, transmission losses and household energy costs. However, implementation challenges remain, including discom cooperation and upfront finance. Similarly, allocations for PM-KUSUM (solar irrigation pumps), have been sustained at ₹5,000 crore. Revised estimates suggest stronger-than-anticipated absorption. For nuclear energy, the government has extended zero basic customs duty on imports of nuclear plant equipment until 2035. While this reduces input costs, nuclear power remains capital intensive, with long construction timelines and financing risks. Recent legal changes permit private participation, but whether private capital will enter a sector entwined with national security, safety and liability concerns remains uncertain. Green hydrogen, despite budgetary support, continues to see modest actual spending, highlighting the persistent gap between policy ambition and execution. Overall, India's climate budget for 2026-27 repeats a pattern: big on intent, cautious on allocations, and uncertain in its ability to mobilise the private capital required to accelerate decarbonisation across vital sectors.

More, and less

The health-care component of Budget 2026 is a mixed bag

While this year's health-care allocations are aggressive in certain key sectors, it has failed expectations that Budget 2026 would be a milestone for increased health-care spending as a percentage of GDP. The total allocation this year is over ₹1.05 lakh crore, marking an increase of about 10% over the previous year's revised estimates. However, experts have pointed out that the 2026 health budget is approximately 1.9% of the total government expenditure, and about 0.26% of GDP. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman fronted the Biopharma SHAKTI scheme, among the projects with the single highest budgetary allocations this year. This ₹10,000 crore government initiative will transform India into a manufacturing hub for biologics and biosimilars over the next five years, she said. A pan-country clinical state-of-the-art trial infrastructure will also be created, through a network of 1,000 accredited clinical trial sites. No doubt, this will take care of an angle that has long been languishing in India – research and development. Additionally, the government will set up three new National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) and modernise seven existing units, besides establishing a second NIMHANS campus in north India and two upgraded national mental health institutes. The government has set itself a target of training one lakh allied health professionals over the next five years, while another 1.5 lakh care workers will also be trained to take care of the health needs of the elderly; this is appreciable at a time when India is well on its way towards becoming a grey nation, with fertility levels falling. In the area of making care affordable, the government has exempted 17 cancer medicines and several treatments for rare diseases from customs and import duties, while also reducing the tax collected at source on medical and educational remittances from 5% to 2%. For patients suffering from these conditions, and their families, this will no doubt lead to better affordability for treatments.

Primarily under fire was the Union government's stodgy refusal to increase the allocation for health care to reach 2.5% of GDP by 2025, as committed in the National Health Policy of 2017. Public health activists have lambasted the drop in funding for the National Health Mission, despite the fact that funds have been consistently well utilised here. While fiscal devolution has enabled States to invest more heavily in the health sector, there are concerns, however, that the Centre steadily reducing its share will result in patchy outcomes, not even improvements, in the health-care sector of the country.

The fading of India's environmental jurisprudence

Faizan Mustafa

is a legal scholar and the Vice-Chancellor of Chanakya National Law University, Patna, Bihar

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From its Aravalli ranges to its mangroves, India is at the same moral crossroads that Amitav Ghosh captures in *The Hungry Tide*, where the tides remember what the law chooses to forget. If environmental justice continues to be diluted in the name of development, the Constitution of India risks becoming a silent witness to ecological loss, where the consequences, like the tide itself, will return with unforgiving force.

On December 18, 2025, for non-coal mining projects, the policy of land acquisition first and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) later was changed. Now, an EIA can be done without details about the location and area. The Supreme Court of India helped in the dilution of environmental justice by recalling the case, *Vanashakti vs Union Of India* (2025) that banned retrospective environmental clearances. Within five months, a Bench led by (then) Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai, recalled the progressive judgment.

From mountains to mangroves

Recent developments indicate a slow, but systematic, dilution of ecological protection. The CJI, Justice Surya Kant, *suo motu*, stayed the controversial order, saving the reputation of the Court. But the debate concerning the Aravallis is not just about a technical argument on definition. It marks a paradigm change in the perception of development, the role of the environment, and the constitutional obligation by the state.

Similarly, the judicial sanctions to the destruction of 158 mangroves for Adani Cementation Limited (2025) in Raigarh, Maharashtra, and the new environmentally unfriendly infrastructure schemes such as the Char Dham highway in the Himalayas, highlight a dangerous trend – that the health of the environment is further being undermined by the government whose proximity with the corporate world is an open secret though it is also true that the private sector has been severely criticised in the annual Economic Survey presented in January 2026.

The Aravallis, traditionally acknowledged as the ecological backbone of north-western India, play a vital role which includes checking desertification, enhancing the recharge of groundwater, controlling micro-climates and maintaining biodiversity. Interestingly, the Court itself has recognised this ecological role. In *M.C. Mehta vs Union of India and Ors.* (2004), a ban was imposed on mining in the Aravalli region.

Later orders that culminated in the year 2010 admitted that unregulated mining in the area had had irreparable effects on the environment. More importantly, in these proceedings, the Court quashed efforts to restrict the Aravallis to a definition based on the landform's height, especially the suggestion that only landforms over 100 metres could be a component of the Aravalli ranges.

The Court realised how such a strict interpretation would ignore huge tracts of ecologically crucial land, thus foiling the objective of environmental conservation. The 100m norm was discarded in 2010 on an ecological basis. The hills and ridges at a low altitude are of significant importance in the preservation of groundwater and soil stability in the semi-arid landscapes. The Aravallis are not just a cluster of isolated peaks but are a geomorphological system. Unfortunately, the latest height-centric definition does not pay attention to crucial factors such as hydrology, biodiversity and ecological interdependence. It was due to the need to circumvent this reductionist strategy that the Court relied on the precautionary principle, in *Vellore Citizens' Welfare Forum vs Union of India and Others* (1996), rejecting the idea of any artificial limit.

> The higher judiciary appears to be aiding a watering down of environmental protection

The strange acceptance by the top court of the 100-metre definition, in *In Re: Issue Relating to Definition of Aravalli Hills and Ranges* (2025), marked a clear departure from the position taken in 2010. In trying to keep landforms above a predetermined elevation as the sole subject of legal protection, the Court has efficiently deprived the Aravalli ranges of any statutory and judicial protection over large portions. Such a change has serious constitutional implications.

The right to a clean and healthy environment, which has been broadly understood in the application of Article 21, is directly involved. Article 48A, which requires the state to ensure the conservation and the enhancement of the environment, is now a hollow proclamation in instances where the interpretation of the law by the judiciary can promote rather than safeguard ecological exclusion. In fact, India's courts have been more enthusiastic about cow slaughter (Article 48) and uniform civil code (Article 44).

The discriminatory protection or preservation of some landforms in relation to their height creates an absurd classification that has no rational nexus to ecological goals. An interpretation of a law that safeguards outstanding hills and exposes the surrounding ecosystems to exploitation contravenes the principle of non-arbitrariness that forms the core of Article 14.

A leniency

This watering down of environmental protection is seen not only in the case of the Aravallis. This has been the case over years with courts and regulatory bodies supporting development projects based on the assurance of mitigation instead of their enforcing environmental norms to the letter. This is evident in the undermining of the EIA process and the legalisation of post-facto and conditional clearances, even after the judicial warnings. In *Common Cause vs Union of India* (2017), the Court had made it clear that the legalisation of illegal mining and environmental offences could not be done after the fact, and that the environmental law is to serve as a deterrent. But judicial leniency later in regard to lapses in procedure corresponds to a slow weakening of this principle.

The results of this kind of dilution are seen in cases of coastal urban ecology, especially the mangroves of Mumbai. Mangroves are multi-layered ecosystems which act as natural flood control systems, sinks of carbon and reservoirs of biodiversity. They protect against storm surges and tidal flooding. Continued judicial authorisations to fell (and transplant) about 34,000 mangrove trees to build infrastructure are a setback. Allowing mangrove destruction on a large scale on the 'promise of compensatory afforestation' marks the destruction of ecological science and constitutional responsibility. It requires decades to develop mature mangrove ecosystems, which cannot be compensated by having a plantation drive in some other place.

Another example is the Char Dham highway project in Uttarakhand. A June 2025 study identified 811 landslide zones along the Char Dham project. The Himalayan ecosystem is one of the most delicate in the world, and the road widening project on such a large scale has grave dangers – triggering landslides and disturbing rivers.

In *Citizens for Green Doon vs Union of India* (2021), the Court recognised the ecological importance of the area, but still allowed wider roads on the grounds of strategic defence needs. The flash floods and ecological disturbances that affected Uttarakhand raise questions about this 'balancing act'. The ill-effects of the current infrastructural rush affect future generations, especially when the constitutional obligations on the government and the citizen, under Article 48A and Article 51A(g), make it clear that it is the responsibility of citizens to safeguard the environment.

Strong players and the issue of fairness

Environmental clearances of corporations and large-scale infrastructure projects, especially those supported by serious capital in mining, highways or urban redevelopment, can pass through regulatory barriers rather easily. If there is a hearing, it is cut short, objections raised are considered obstructionist, and environmental compliance becomes a mere checklist. This casts grave doubts on procedural fairness and transparency which are contained in Article 14. When it disproportionately gives more privileges to economically strong players, environmental governance can destroy the trust of the populace and constitutional equality.

The changing stance of the judiciary in this dismal picture is crucial. Traditionally, courts have been the custodians of environmental rights as they have broadened the constitutional interpretation on issues of environmental damage. Judgments such as *M.C. Mehta vs Kamal Nath and Ors.* (1996) held that the public trust doctrine was deeply rooted in the belief that natural resources belonged to the state, were held in the trust of the people and could not be sold to be exploited privately. When such definitions or clearances are approved by the courts to promote the degradation of the environment, they basically go against the court's own jurisprudence. The Green Bench of the Supreme Court must sit regularly. Similar Benches must be set up in all the High Courts. Ease of business should not make destruction of the environment easy.

The views expressed are personal

More money for defence, now fix the process

Dushyant Singh

is a retired Lieutenant General, and, currently, Director General of the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS)

Tara Kartha

is Director, Research and Analysis, at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS)

The Finance Minister has been rather generous. The new defence budget is being touted as being the first double digit jump in India's defence expenditure in decades, ever since its steady decline from 2017. At 2% of the Budget, it sends a signal of strategic determination in a more than unusually turbulent world. The funds will have to be used prudently and expeditiously, which demand systemic change, not tinkering, in the Budget process. As 'frenemies' abound and a tenuous 'rules-based order' collapses, there is no time to lose.

The good and the bad

The most talked about aspect is the Budget's 15% hike hitting 2% of GDP (up from 1.9% last year). Second, in a notable shift, capital expenditure has outpaced the revenue budget, up more than 22%, reversing years of neglect. Third, there is a clear thrust toward modernisation. The Indian Air Force gets a hefty 32% rise, while the Indian Army has got a 30% hike for heavy vehicles and weapons.

Oddly, the Indian Navy, with its ambitious commitments in the Indian Ocean, gets 3%. Ironically, this is probably due to its success in indigenisation, and a proven capability to absorb allotted funds.

All this is good. But the rupee has weakened substantially against the dollar, which means that payment for capital goods such as aircraft has become more expensive. It is not all bad news. Defence exports are rising – ₹23,000 crore last year as against ₹1,000 crore in 2014. A chunk of the Indian Army's mobility equipment is made here by the Tatas, Ashok Leyland and others. But this does eat into the 'double digit' increase.

There are also the pension payments which rose by 6.56% but it is still at 21.84% when compared to 27.95% for capital expenditure of the Ministry of Defence (MoD)'s allocation. Before FY1987-88, they came under central government pensions and were not clubbed with the defence budget. Despite this, the Budget was still 3.31% of GDP. The size of the economy then was less than half of what it is today, but it still provides a certain perspective.

It might be time to reinvent that wheel.

> A defence budget has to also be seen as a tool that powers growth

Bureaucracy and delays

A welcome aspect is that 75% of the capital acquisition budget for procurement has been earmarked for domestic industries, which includes private players. The government's thrust in this direction has been consistent, with defence production recording a 174% surge from 2014-15. But beyond this is the reality of a complex bureaucratic system, one aspect of which is the L-1 (lowest cost) rule which favours large industries rather than innovators who are vital for a tech-intensive industry. They cannot compete, especially when transitioning to manufacturing. This needs not only hand holding but also clarity in forward planning and promised volumes.

The next factor is this – the interminable delays in vital programmes such as Project 75 for submarines approved in 1997. Expected delivery times are now in the mid 2030s. The Rafale fighter aircraft deal which was envisioned in the 1990s, saw results only 2019-20. It is unsurprising then that the MoD had to return ₹12,500 crore of its capital allocation in FY2024-25.

It is time to re-examine the repeated demand for a Non-Lapsable Defence Modernisation Fund, which was announced in the FY 2004-05 Budget speech but never implemented. Financial convenience cannot result in the defence industry being held hostage.

R&D lies scattered

A key area is research and development (R&D). Funds for the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and a slew of research organisations have been increased; many have potential benefits for defence production. But research is segmented. Despite often being dual use, it seldom translates into better defence capabilities. India's overall research budget also remains 0.66% of GDP. Compare that to Japan at 3.70%, funded primarily by the private sector. In India, there is a near absence of private sector R&D. Those in the big league must loosen up and unify research and its direction.

A 'pacifist' country such as Japan has now allocated 2.2% for its defence. So has Australia with a far lower threat profile. Europe too is moving to larger allocations. At issue here is the 'guns vs butter' lens through which the defence budget is viewed. Instead, it needs to be melded with the vision of Viksit Bharat's $30 trillion economy. The Border Roads Organisation, for instance, delivers the connectivity for 'Vibrant Villages" programme which is vital to border development.

In another example, the Prime Minister remarked that indigenous shipbuilding has a 6.5 multiplier effect on employment, with its multiple ancillary industries. This applies almost across the board. The Budget has to be seen as a tool for powering growth, rather than being a 'non development' section. Once this is done, the processes will follow.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The cover story

What a sad commentary it is on how Parliament's time is squandered on unproductive debates over books. The Leader of the Opposition suddenly raises an issue over a former Army Chief's book, stalled by the Defence Ministry for opaque reasons. In response, ruling party MPs theatrically brandish books whose contents have long been in the public domain. As someone who has spent a lifetime in publishing, I expected Parliament to confront a far graver anomaly: GST on books. While books are 'exempt', every input — paper, printing, logistics, freelance honoraria, and author royalties — attracts GST. Publishers cannot claim input tax credit or seek refunds, effectively turning GST into a hidden tax. With costs rising relentlessly, this policy quietly penalises knowledge creation while Parliament argues over dust jackets.

N. Nagarajan,
Secunderabad

The online age

It was shocking to read the report on three minor girls ending their lives in Uttar Pradesh due to the restrictions their parents had imposed on them on the use of mobile phones (Front page, February 5). We find that many children cast their pens or pencils aside and are content with being immersed in their mobile phones. Letter writing is an alien concept. Internet 'addiction' in children is an important issue that needs to be tackled as it is affecting the mental health of young people. Our youth must have creative pastimes and an active lifestyle that involves outdoor games.

A.J. Rangarajan,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Should the Governor's address be scrapped?

PARLEY

P.D.T. Achary
Former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha

Alok Prasanna Kumar
Co-founder of Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy

Last month, during the joint session of the Karnataka Legislature, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot walked out of the House after reading only a few lines of his customary address prepared by the State Cabinet. The Chief Minister accused the Governor of violating his constitutional obligation. The incident followed similar developments in other Opposition-ruled States. In DMK-ruled Tamil Nadu, Governor R.N. Ravi walked out of the Assembly without delivering his inaugural address. In LDF-ruled Kerala, Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar omitted portions of the speech cleared by the Cabinet. Should the practice of Governors addressing the State legislatures be scrapped? P.D.T. Achary and Alok Prasanna Kumar discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Aaratrika Bhaumik**. Edited excerpts:

Does a Governor's refusal to read the Cabinet-approved opening address violate the Constitution?

P.D.T. Achary: Under Article 176, a Governor is constitutionally mandated to address the State legislature at the commencement of the first session each year and at the first session following a general election. The address sets out the government's legislative agenda, outlining the policies and programmes it proposes to pursue during the session and the year ahead. The text of this address is prepared by the State Cabinet, and the Governor, as a constitutional functionary, is required to deliver it in that form. A Governor who declines to address the House, or who makes only a token appearance by reading selective portions of the address, cannot be said to be acting in conformity with the mandate of Article 176.

Alok Prasanna Kumar: Such conduct is contrary to the constitutional mandate. The Governor is an integral part of the State legislature, as recognised under Article 168 of the Constitution. This aspect is often overlooked, as the legislature is frequently understood to comprise only one or two Houses of elected representatives. As a constitutional head within this structure, the Governor is expected to facilitate, not obstruct, the functioning of the legislature.

Can a Governor use discretion to alter such an address?

Alok Prasanna Kumar: No. In *Nabam Rebia v. Deputy Speaker* (2016), the Supreme Court clarified that the Governor's address to the House is an executive function performed strictly on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. The recurring departures from this constitutional convention are a consequence of the existing institutional design. Unlike the President, who is indirectly elected and subject to impeachment by Parliament, the Governor holds office at the pleasure of the President, in effect, the Union government. Consequently, while the President remains institutionally answerable to Parliament, the Governor's continuance in office depends upon the confidence of the Union government rather than the legislature within which the office functions.

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot at the joint session of the State legislature, at Vidhana Soudha, in Bengaluru.

P.D.T. Achary: I agree. The Governor cannot alter the address prepared by the State Cabinet and is required only to read it before the House. The Governor bears no responsibility for its contents and incurs no liability for what it states. In a representative democracy such as ours, executive authority is vested in the Council of Ministers, as the elected representatives of the people. The Governor is therefore precluded from running a parallel government or taking independent decisions de hors the aid and advice of the State Cabinet.

What recourse does a Governor have if there are genuine reservations about the address's contents?

Alok Prasanna Kumar: The Governor cannot hold an independent view on whether the government's policies are desirable or even constitutional. Personal opinions need not be forfeited, but they must be conveyed through candid, private exchanges with the State Cabinet. Once the Governor assumes office, such personal views must yield to constitutional discipline. A Governor may offer counsel, but must recognise the limits of the office.

At the same time, it is a healthy convention for the Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers to maintain regular communication with the Governor and to be receptive to any contrarian views he or she might have. Where such rapport and constitutional civility exist, it is unlikely that an elected government would disregard the Governor's counsel.

> At least two other sessions of the State legislature each year commence without a Governor's address, which indicates that the legislature's functioning is not inherently dependent on this ceremonial formality.
> **P.D.T. ACHARY**

Is this address a colonial remnant that ought to be dispensed with?

Alok Prasanna Kumar: The practice ought to be retained, even if it is largely symbolic and serves little functional purpose. The focus should be on addressing instances of constitutionally impermissible gubernatorial discretion rather than abandoning the convention altogether. The address recognises the Governor's place as an integral part of the legislature and reflects the continuity of the Westminster parliamentary model adopted in India.

P.D.T. Achary: I do not believe there is anything sacrosanct about this practice. At least two other sessions of the State legislature each year commence without a Governor's address, which indicates that the legislature's functioning is not inherently dependent on this ceremonial formality. Moreover, Article 175 of the Constitution provides an alternative mechanism through which the Governor may address the House or send messages regarding any pending legislation. Reconsideration of this practice becomes particularly pertinent in light of the increasing instances of visibly partisan conduct by Governors in Opposition-ruled States.

Further, Article 355 imposes a duty upon the Union government to ensure that the governance of every State is carried on in accordance with the Constitution. When a Governor declines to deliver the address mandated under Article 176, it raises concerns about whether that constitutional obligation is being meaningfully upheld. Such situations also risk precipitating a constitutional crisis, as the legislative session cannot formally commence in the absence of the Governor's address.

Is Presidential intervention necessary when Governors fail to discharge their constitutional duties?

P.D.T. Achary: Yes. When Governors act in a partisan manner and fail to discharge their constitutional duties, it is incumbent upon the President to intervene and require the Governor either to perform those duties or to demit office. Article 160 of the Constitution empowers the President to issue directions for the discharge of a Governor's functions, particularly to address contingencies not expressly provided for in the Constitution. However, there have been no notable instances of Presidents invoking such powers to avert situations where gubernatorial conduct threatens to create a constitutional crisis in the States.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has called for a constitutional amendment to do away with this address. How feasible is it to bring about such an amendment?

P.D.T. Achary: It is unlikely that such a constitutional amendment will be achievable. The Union government is unlikely to support it, and its passage would require a special majority in Parliament – a majority of the total membership of each House and a two-thirds majority of members present and voting. This is a difficult threshold to meet without a broad consensus between the government and the Opposition. Moreover, when the existing framework yields evident political benefit, there is little incentive to alter it.

Alok Prasanna Kumar: Such an amendment would be futile. If the Constitution is to be amended, a more meaningful reform would be to reconsider the manner in which Governors are appointed and removed. Such reform could ensure that Governors remain mindful that their allegiance lies with the Constitution, not the Union government, and that any departure from this role carries consequences for their continuance in office. This also explains why Presidents generally discharge their functions without controversy, while Governors often do not. The former is institutionally accountable to Parliament by virtue of indirect election and the possibility of impeachment.

However, as Mr. Achary has pointed out, even this would require political consensus that may be difficult to secure. Nevertheless, a serious discussion on such reforms is necessary to halt the gradual weakening of constitutional governance in Opposition-ruled States.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

The free press dies in broad daylight

The fate of *The Washington Post* serves as a cautionary tale

Narayan Lakshman

The writing was on the wall. William Lewis, publisher of *The Washington Post*, and blue-eyed boy of its owner, Jeff Bezos, scarcely attended meetings with the editorial staff of the venerable newspaper since he took over in early 2024. But he set alarm bells ringing across the newsroom with less-than-constructive comments to journalists such as "People are not reading your stuff," openly calling for staff who "do not feel aligned with the company's plan" to leave, and reportedly describing some of them as "activists, not journalists."

Driving internal corporate disenchantment with the journalistic practices of the nearly 150-year-old newspaper was an apparent deepening ideological clash between the management and the long-standing, well-considered political position of the Post on a number of issues. For example, Mr. Bezos's decision to end the established practice of endorsing a presidential candidate before the U.S. election – thus effectively avoiding the image of the newspaper supporting Kamala Harris in November 2024 – raised eyebrows among insiders and external observers alike. Last year, he said that the opinion pages would defend "two pillars: personal liberties and free markets".

It should have come as little surprise then that the *Post* has now led what is widely being described as a "bloodbath" for quality journalism. In what will be remembered as a pivotal moment in the struggle of the U.S. media to stand up to challenging economic conditions and a president who routinely denigrates the free press of the country, Editor-in-Chief Matt Murray, reportedly told employees this week that the newspaper was undergoing a "strategic reset to better position the publication for the future". To this end, he announced sweeping layoffs of close to one-third of all editorial staff across departments, including international desks and correspondents worldwide, the books and sports divisions, and metro and cultural coverage.

At first glance, the proposal – apparently the motivation for this large-scale termination exercise – to narrow the focus of the broadsheet exclusively to politics and national security coverage might work in theory; yet upon closer inspection it fails the common sense test. Even if we accept the premise of the management that it is unprofitable to pursue the idea of a broad news offering – in the face of evidence to the contrary, offered by *The New York Times*, for example – how is the bottom line served by a strategy that rips away some of the finest international reporters and desk editors who are critical to producing quality journalism in politics and national security? A simple example highlights the contradictions inherent: shutting down reporting hubs in Ukraine – as reports suggest the *Post* has done – would directly impinge upon the newspaper's coverage of the machinations of the Donald Trump-led White House as it seeks to curry favour with Russia or reset ties with Europe by brazenly undermining NATO unity.

The deep learning for media houses across the free and democratic world is this: overzealous corporate owners of newspapers who are prone to genuflection to their political masters will happily seize the excuse of falling subscriptions or profits, even of a publication with a rich, hoary legacy of quality journalism, to re-bundle it as a prosaic, pliant publication that might offer a steady income stream to shareholders.

Editorial leaders who hope to avoid this fate would do the opposite of what the combative Mr. Lewis suggested, which is to pre-empt an exodus of readers and financial losses by reassessing what the core readership of the publication cares about and double down on multi-pronged offerings built on the latest and most suitable technology platforms.

The fate of the *Post* is a cautionary tale and its moral is this: while democracy may die in darkness, the free press dies in broad daylight.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A time for reflection

Kashmiri Shiite Muslims light candles at the graves of their relatives to mark Shab-e-Barat, at a graveyard in Srinagar. Shab-e-Barat means the Night of Salvation and it reflects the belief that Allah grants mercy to those who sin and blesses those who pray. IMRAN NISSAR

FROM THE ARCHIVES — The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 6, 1976

Harold Macmillan to visit Madras

Madras, Feb. 5: The former British Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Macmillan, will be in Madras for a couple of days this month. He is due to make a 10-day visit to India in his capacity as the President of the Macmillan group of companies. Arriving from Calcutta on February 20, a day after his landing in India, Mr. Macmillan will visit the local office and the press, besides meeting prominent citizens of Madras. On February 23, he will inaugurate the company's computerised type-setting export project at Bangalore. Mr. S.G. Wasani, Managing Director, Macmillan Company of India, said computerised typesetting represented a major breakthrough in printing technology. To begin with, the company would have one such unit, costing Rs. 40 lakhs. Another unit would be installed within two years. He expected the firm's exports to increase from the present Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs, by the end of 1976 as a result of this advanced process. In reply to a question, Mr. Wasani said the State Governments' policy of nationalising school text-books gradually had not affected the company's business, though many other publishers had to quit the field. If anything, the firm's turnover of school textbooks had risen from Rs. 60 lakhs to Rs. 91 lakhs during the last three years, he said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 6, 1926

Control of Buddha Gaya

A meeting to consider the Indian Committee's Report issued in connection with the Buddha Gaya temple was held on 3rd February at the Olcott Memorial Hall, Ananda College. The Rev. Kahave Ratnasara, High Priest of the Maligakanda Temple, presided and a large number of delegates from various Buddhist Associations was present. Dr. O.A. Hewaritarne said that the agitation for the control of Buddha Gaya by the Buddhists began as early as 1891. After persistent efforts, they succeeded in getting the Indian National Congress to appoint a Sub-Committee to enquire into the matter.

From Page One

18 killed in blast at illegal coal mine in Meghalaya

Expressing sympathies to the families of those killed, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said the government has ordered an inquiry. "Accountability will be fixed, and those responsible will face strict legal action," he said. The Chief Minister also announced an ex gratia of ₹3 lakh for the next of kin of each deceased worker.

"We have started an investigation," Mr. Kumar said, adding the police were gathering information about the mine owner. The police registered a *suo motu* first information report (FIR) at the Khliehriat (district headquarters) police station under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, read with the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act and the Explosives Substances Act. Activists claim mine owners, backed by politicians and other influential people, continue to operate illegally despite the NGT's blanket ban on the mining of coal and its transportation in April 2014, which was later upheld by the Supreme Court.

Several accidents

There have been several cases of coal mine accidents before and after the ban, killing at least 50 workers to date. The last major incident was in December 2018, also in East Jaintia Hills district, where at least 15 miners were trapped in a flooded mine 370 feet below the surface. Multiple agencies, including the Indian Navy, could retrieve only two bodies in the rescue operation that lasted months. "Rat-hole mining, entailing digging holes about 4-5 feet in height, allowing an adult to squat and work, is risky. However, daily wages as high as ₹2,000 attract many people to take up the job," Shillong-based anti-illegal mining activist Agnes Kharshiing said.

DAC to weigh acquisition of Rafale ahead of Macron visit

Eighteen aircraft are likely to be acquired in flyaway condition to meet immediate needs, with the rest to be manufactured in India, an official says; the source code will remain with the French side

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The procurement will take the total Rafale fleet in India to 176, with the IAF already operating 36. PTI

Ahead of French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to India for the artificial intelligence Summit, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, is scheduled to meet in the second week of February to consider key procurement proposals aimed at enhancing the operational capabilities of the armed forces.

A senior defence official confirmed that the DAC meeting would grant Acceptance of Necessity for several acquisition proposals. During his stay, President Macron is expected to meet Mr. Singh to discuss bilateral defence cooperation between India and France.

Another defence official said that multiple proposals will be tabled at the meeting, including the acquisition of 114 Rafale fighter aircraft from France. Following DAC clearance, the proposal will be placed before the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by the Prime Minister, for final approval.

Under the proposed plan, the bulk of the aircraft will be manufactured in India, with indigenous components accounting for approximately 30% to 40% of the overall content, providing a significant boost to domestic defence manufacturing. The official added that 18 aircraft are likely to be acquired in flyaway condition to meet the Indian Air Force's immediate operational requirements, while the remaining jets will be manufactured in India. The source code, however, will remain with the French side.

Largest acquisitions

Defence experts noted that once cleared by the CCS, the deal will rank among the largest defence acquisitions undertaken by India. The procurement will take the total Rafale fleet in the country to 176 aircraft, with the IAF already operating 36 Rafale jets and the Indian Navy having placed orders for 26 naval variants last year.

The AI summit is expected to see participation from representatives of several countries, including Brazil, Switzerland, Greece, Serbia, Spain and Finland.

Separately, Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, in his interaction with presspersons earlier, had flagged concerns over delays in fighter aircraft deliveries, noting that Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. has fallen behind schedule, partly due to delays in the supply of the F404-IN20 engines from GE.

The IAF has repeatedly underscored the urgency of strengthening its fighter fleet amid a rapidly evolving regional security environment. "To maintain a comfortable strength, we need two squadrons, around 30 to 40 aircraft, produced every year. Replacement is not a choice; it's a necessity," the Air Chief had said earlier.

EC holds briefing for observers in poll-bound States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

They were instructed to remain accessible and ensure that the grievances of voters were redressed

The Election Commission (EC) on Thursday began briefings for General, Police and Expenditure Observers to be deployed as Central observers for the Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

A total of 1,444 officers, including 714 General Observers, 233 Police Observers and 497 Expenditure Observers have been called for the briefing meetings, which will be held in three batches over two days from Thursday.

The briefing was done by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

The CEC said the observers should ensure free, fair and transparent elections, and their presence would energise the entire election machinery across 824 constituencies where elections were going to be held.

Senior EC officials also briefed the observers on various aspects of preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections. The observers were also briefed on the IT applications and platforms, and media-related matters during the sessions.

They were asked to familiarise themselves with all the election laws, rules, guidelines and provide inputs directly to the commission and ensure their strict and impartial compliance. They were instructed to remain fully accessible to political parties, candidates and ensure that the grievances of voters were redressed in a timely manner.

The observers were also instructed to visit polling stations and ensure the implementation of the recent initiatives taken by the commission for the convenience of voters, especially ensuring the provision of Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. SANSAD TV/ANI

Opposition has defiled the temple of democracy: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday that successive defeats inflicted by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) were proving indigestible to the Opposition, but he had the support of the poor and any plan to "dig his grave" would not be successful.

Replying to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address to the joint sitting of Parliament, he referred to the absence of a reply by him in the Lok Sabha on the same debate as a "defilement of the temple of democracy" and an insult to not just President Droupadi Murmu, her position, and her tribal identity, but also the Constitution.

Congress retorts

The Opposition benches staged a walkout as Mr. Modi began his speech. The Prime Minister deplored Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "traitor" comment on Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu, and termed it an insult to the entire Sikh community

The Congress, on the other hand, accused the Prime Minister of "hiding behind" Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. After Mr. Birla claimed that Opposition members were planning to hurt Mr. Modi, speaking outside the House, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra dismissed the claim as "absolute lie".

I told PM to avoid LS, says Birla

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Thursday that he had asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to come to the Lower House to deliver his response to the Motion of Thanks to the President since he had "concrete information" that many Congress MPs could carry out an "unexpected act" of protest at the PM's seat.

The House had earlier passed the Motion of Thanks by a voice vote, without Prime Minister's customary reply, amid protests by the Opposition over the India-U.S. trade deal as well as the Chair "not allowing" Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi to make a speech.

PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY
» PAGE 13

U.S. shuts down 200 online pharmacies tied to a criminal organisation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Drug Enforcement Administration launched searches on January 27 in the U.S.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has announced the shutdown of over 200 website domains tied to an India-based transnational criminal organisation (TCO) allegedly responsible for at least six fatal and four non-fatal overdoses. Four persons have been arrested so far.

The DEA executed the operation in cooperation with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York. "The TCO tied to these illegal online pharmacies has been under investigation by DEA's Rocky Mountain Field Division since 2022," read its statement.

"Leveraging its global reach, DEA actively collaborates with our Government of India law enforcement partners to identify, investigate, and dismantle dangerous criminal organisations that engage in these types of illegal drug trafficking operations," said the DEA, adding that it would continue its crackdown on illicit pharmaceutical distributors at the source through joint operations.

The agency's field offices launched the searches on January 27 across the U.S., leading to the arrest of four individuals along with the issuance of five Immediate Suspension Orders (ISO) and one Order to Show Cause (OTSC) against DEA-registered pharmacies. "These actions were in addition to the U.S. government shutting down more than 200 online pharmacies accused of filling hundreds of thousands of orders of diverted pharmaceuticals and counterfeit pills without valid prescriptions," the DEA said.

The agency has approached hundreds of customers who bought medication through them.

"This case demonstrates how foreign-based traffickers exploit our healthcare system, hide behind the internet, and use people inside the United States to move dangerous drugs under the guise of legitimate commerce," said DEA Administrator Terrance Cole. In 2024, DEA had cautioned the U.S. citizens against an increase in illegal online pharmacies, many of which sold and shipped counterfeit pills made with fentanyl to unsuspecting customers, it said.

The agency said that many of the sites taken down as part of Operation Meltdown claimed to be legitimate, based in the U.S., and FDA-approved, but it found that their operators were often working with drug traffickers to fulfill online orders with counterfeit pills or diverted pharmaceuticals. "These counterfeit medications are often made with fentanyl or methamphetamine and taking them can lead to serious health risks, including harmful side effects, ineffective treatment, and even death," it added.

Centre signs tripartite pact to create Naga authority

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

A tripartite agreement for creation of the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) was signed between Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO), Nagaland government and Union Home Ministry on Thursday.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio. ENPO is an apex body representing eight recognised Naga tribes of the six eastern districts of Nagaland.

The agreement paves the way for creation of the FNTA for six districts of Nagaland – Tuensang, Mon, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak and Shamator – and devolution of powers in respect of 46 subjects to the FNTA.

Mr. Shah said it was a significant day for a dispute-free Northeast. "Eleven years ago, several armed groups and disputes in the Northeast were pushing the region towards fragmentation and disturbing its peace. At the same time, many inter-State disputes were disrupting the peace of the States," he said.

Mr. Shah said that since 2019, the Centre has signed 12 important agreements in the Northeast. Mr. Shah said that he wants to assure the representatives of ENPO that the Government of India will assist in the development of Eastern Nagaland and also will shoulder its responsibility. He added that a fixed amount will be determined every year, and the MHA will cover the initial expenditure for its establishment. The agreement provides, *inter alia*, for a mini-Secretariat for FNTA, headed by Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary, sharing of development outlay for the Eastern Nagaland region proportional to population and area. However, this agreement does not affect in any manner, the provisions of Article 371(A) of the Constitution, the Ministry said.

Anurag Thakur is free to participate in BCCI affairs: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Anurag Thakur

The Supreme Court on Thursday modified its 2017 order in a major relief for former Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president and current BJP Lok Sabha member Anurag Thakur, and said he shall be free to participate in the affairs of the cricket Board according to rules and regulations.

On January 2, 2017, the top court had directed Mr. Thakur to "forthwith cease and desist from being associated with the working of BCCI".

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said Mr. Thakur was "hitherto free to participate in the affairs of the BCCI as per the rules and regulations". The Bench, including Justice Joymalya Bagchi, on Thursday lifted the embargo on Mr. Thakur considering the fact that he had given an unconditional apology and he has been unconnected with the BCCI for nine years now.

In January 2017, the court had declared Mr. Thakur and then BCCI honorary secretary Ajay Shirke "unfit" to continue at the helm of the BCCI for their "obstructionist" attitude and failure to implement the Justice Lodha Committee reforms in the BCCI.

Mr. Thakur had urged the court in 2018 for recalling the order barring him from having any association with the BCCI.

Army renames 246 roads, buildings, and facilities to shed colonial legacy

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Malcolm Lines in Mhow Cantonment has been renamed Piru Singh Lines.

The Indian Army has renamed 246 roads, buildings, and facilities across establishments nationwide as part of an effort to shed colonial-era symbols and reinforce an identity rooted in India's military heritage.

The Army stated that the revised nomenclature gives pride of place to the nation's gallantry awardees, battle heroes and distinguished military leaders, reflecting the core values of courage, sacrifice and leadership. Officials say the initiative is part of the Army's continuing efforts to align its institutional spaces with India's military traditions and national ethos.

The renaming exercise covers a wide range of infrastructure, including 124 roads, 77 residential colonies, 27 buildings and military facilities, and 18 other facilities such as parks, training areas, sports grounds, gates, and helipads.

This move complements broader national initiatives aimed at recognising bravery and supreme sacrifice, including sustained efforts to honour Param Vir Chakra awardees, ensuring that the legacy of India's heroes remains embedded in everyday military life.

Across several cantonments and military stations, British-era names have been replaced with titles drawn from India's military history. In Delhi Cantonment, Kirby Place has been renamed Kenuguruse Vihar, and Mall Road is now known as Arun Khetrapal Marg. Ambala Cantonment's Patterson Road Quarters is now Dhan Singh Thapa Enclave, while New Horn Line in Mathura Cantonment has been renamed Abdul Hamid Lines.

Similar changes include Queens Line Road in Jaipur Cantonment, which has been renamed Sundar Singh Marg, New Birdwood Line in Bareilly Cantonment is now called Thimayya Colony, and Malcolm Lines in Mhow Cantonment has been renamed Piru Singh Lines.

Kuki-Zo groups boycott tribal MLAs in Manipur govt.

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Kuki-Zo tribal groups declared a social boycott on Thursday of Kuki-Zo legislators who have joined the newly formed Manipur government of Yumnam Khemchand Singh.

The boycott and a dawn-to-dusk "total shutdown" across the hills inhabited by the Kuki-Zo people, to protest "betrayal" by these MLAs, were enforced hours before the seventh session of the 12th Manipur Assembly began with an address by Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

Normal life was hit in Chandel, Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, and Pherzawl districts as protesters rallied with posters calling some Kuki-Zo MLAs "traitors". There were reports of arson in some of these districts where protesters accused the MLAs of prioritising government formation over pressuring the Centre for a Union Territory-like separate administration for the Kuki-Zo community.

Anger was directed at Nemcha Kipgen, sworn in as a Deputy Chief Minister on Wednesday, and two other legislators. All three are Bharatiya Janata Party legislators.

Congress flags 'procedural irregularities' in Lok Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress MP K.C. Venugopal on Thursday wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla alleging "serious procedural irregularities" and questioning the "authenticity" of the procedure adopted to pass the Motion of Thanks to the President without the customary reply by the Prime Minister.

In his letter, he said that under Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure, it is mandatory for the Prime Minister to explain the government's position at the end of the discussion. If the Prime Minister is unable to do so, the House must be informed, he said, adding that neither of these requirements was met.

"In the present case, neither did the Hon'ble Prime Minister reply to the debate nor was the House informed about his inability to do so. This clearly amounts to a violation of provisions of Rule 20," the Congress leader wrote.

Mr. Venugopal also referred to Rule 362, under which a debate may be closed without a Minister's reply only if a motion to that effect is moved by a member and approved by the House. He said that no such motion had been moved before the Motion of Thanks was put to vote. "This action, therefore, constitutes a violation of Rule 362," he added.

PM absent, Lok Sabha passes Motion of Thanks

Amid continued protests by Opposition, Lok Sabha was adjourned; Speaker says the conduct of some Opposition members in his office on Wednesday was not appropriate, terms it a 'black spot'

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not reply to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address before it was passed in the Lok Sabha on Thursday. In fact, he was not present in the House when the Motion was put to vote. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh were also not present.

The last time that the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address was passed without the Prime Minister's reply was in June 2004, when then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh could not deliver his reply to the debate in the Lok Sabha following BJP protests.

He had then asked the Lok Sabha to put the Motion to vote without his reply. In his 2005 speech, Dr. Singh mentioned that he had not been allowed to speak the previous year.

Stormy scenes: Opposition leaders trooping into the Well in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session in New Delhi on Thursday. SANSAD TV

'Concrete information'
On Thursday, as the Opposition continued its protests after the passage of the Motion, Mr. Birla adjourned the proceedings yet again.

When the House reconvened at 3 p.m., the Speaker said: "When the Leader of the House was to reply [to the debate on the Motion of Thanks], I had concrete information that many members of the Congress party could carry out an unexpected act by reaching the spot where the Prime Minister sits."

He added: "If this incident had taken place, then this would have left the democratic traditions of the country in shreds."

The Speaker added that the conduct of some Opposition members in his office on Wednesday was not appropriate and was, in fact, "like a black spot".

"With sadness, I have to inform [the House] that some members displayed such behaviour in the House on Wednesday that had never been witnessed in its history," he said.

On Wednesday, women MPs from Opposition parties charged towards the Prime Minister's seat in the Lok Sabha, holding up banners ahead of his scheduled speech. The incident took place while BJP member P.P. Chaudhary was making his remarks on the Motion of Thanks. The Prime Minister was not present in the House at that point.

Mr. Birla thanked the Prime Minister for acceding to his request and avoiding unpleasant scenes in the Lok Sabha by not coming to the House on Wednesday.

He then adjourned the House for the day as Opposition members continued to protest and raise slogans.

Persistent protest
The Lok Sabha had witnessed protests since the morning, with Congress MPs trooping into the Well, carrying posters featuring a picture of the Prime Minster, with 'Narendra-Surrender' slogans written at the top.

MPs from the Samajwadi Party and the Trinamool Congress were also in the Well, while other members of the INDIA bloc, including the DMK and the Left, stood at their seats and in the aisle in solidarity.

Tensions escalate in Rajya Sabha over Rahul issue, Opposition stages walkout

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress and other Opposition parties staged a walkout from the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, accusing the government of preventing Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi from speaking during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address to the joint sitting of Parliament. The protest followed a heated exchange between the Treasury and Opposition benches.

In the Upper House, Leader of the Opposition and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge attempted to read out excerpts from an unpublished book by former Army chief General M.M. Naravane (retd), the very point of contention in the Lok Sabha. Chairman and Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan disallowed him from doing so, prompting Opposition members to walk out in protest.

Leader of the House J.P. Nadda criticised the Congress, and said that the party should not allow itself to be held hostage by an "*abodh balak* (ignorant child)", in a reference to Mr. Gandhi.

Tensions escalated soon after Zero Hour began. Raising the issue first, Mr. Kharge said Mr. Gandhi had not been permitted to speak in the Lok Sabha despite wanting to address matters of national interest. Before he could continue, Mr. Radhakrishnan ruled that the proceedings of the Lok Sabha could not be discussed in the Rajya Sabha, and handed the floor to Mr. Nadda.

Speech row: Rajya Sabha MP Mallikarjun Kharge speaking in the Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session on Thursday. SANSAD TV

Mr. Nadda countered, saying that the Opposition should advise its Lok Sabha members to participate in the debate rather than disrupt the House. Opposition MPs responded with slogans, alleging that democracy was being "throttled".

Rijiju questions protest
Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju questioned the timing of the protest, noting that the Rajya Sabha debate had proceeded uninterrupted for three days. Reiterating his ruling, the Rajya Sabha Chairman cited a precedent based on an intervention by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, advising against references to Lok Sabha proceedings in the Upper House.

Mr. Nadda said the government was prepared for discussion "in all forms and at all times". He advised Mr. Kharge, as Congress chief, to run the party independently and not allow it to become hostage to the "*abodh balak*". He added: "You shouldn't let pride, arrogance and ignorance dictate... Arrogance and ignorance are a potent combination and you should stay away from it."

The Congress president said such language was unacceptable and accused the BJP of stifling democratic processes. Mr. Kharge said BJP members were not free to speak their minds even as they lectured the Opposition.

PM 'hiding behind' Speaker; claims of threat a 'lie': Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

PM has delivered 'another election rally speech' lasting 97 minutes: Jairam

Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "hiding behind" Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday dismissed as "absolute lie" the claim that Opposition members were planning to hurt Mr. Modi.

"If you are going to allow your members to quote books, talk nonsense, the Opposition Benches are going to protest. I am sorry, the Prime Minister is hiding behind the Speaker... because three women were standing before his Bench, what nonsense is this," Ms. Vadra told pressmen outside the House.

Her remarks came after Mr. Birla said in the Lok Sabha that he had asked the Prime Minister not to come to the House to deliver his address, following "concrete information" that some Congress MPs could carry out an "unexpected act" near his seat.

Ms. Gandhi said the government was making the Speaker "say all this" because the Prime Minister "did not have the guts to come to the House".

"It is an absolute lie. There is no question of anybody raising hands on the Prime Minister, trying to hurt him or any such thing... there was no such plan," she added.

Congress leader Pawan Khera accused the BJP of insulting Dalit MP Varsha Gaikwad by casting aspersions on her conduct."Were the Modi government and their compliant journalists uncomfortable with a Dalit woman MP standing up? Do they consider them untouchable," Mr. Khera asked in a post on X.

In a social media post, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi said, "Just so much panic from questions? Modi*ji*, so scared of the truth, sought refuge in lies. Well, did what seemed right".

'Forced to walk out'
Meanwhile, Congress president and Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge said that the Opposition was forced to walk out of the Rajya Sabha because the government was not ready to listen.

He said the Opposition had sought to place "issues of national interest" before both Houses, including concerns about unemployment, inflation, and the welfare of farmers.

Alleging that the government had "sacrificed farmers' interests" to "broker a deal with America", Mr. Kharge said the Opposition wanted accountability on what he described as India's "surrender" to U.S.'s demands under President Donald Trump.

"We wanted to ask all these questions... A united Opposition had decided that if the LoP is allowed to speak then we would participate. But they didn't allow us," he said.

He also criticised Mr. Modi remarks, saying that leaders who built modern India were being routinely insulted.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh posted on X that the Prime Minister had delivered "another election rally speech" lasting 97 minutes. He described the speech as "overflowing with abuses and assaults, distortions and dramatics, innuendos and insults".

Rajya Sabha adopts the Motion of Thanks amid protests by Opposition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Thursday adopted the Motion to Thank President Droupadi Murmu for her Address to the joint session of Parliament. The amendments moved by Opposition MPs were defeated in a voice vote in their absence. The Opposition had walked out of the House during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reply to the debate.

Earlier in the day, BJP members addressed concerns expressed by Opposition members over the India-U.S. bilateral trade deal and said the deal was in the interest of the country. Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said even External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was unaware of the details of the trade deal. Quoting U.S. President Donald Trump, she said agriculture and dairy products were part of the deal and sought clarification from the government.

Talking point: Opposition MPs walk out from the Rajya Sabha during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech. ANI VIDEO GRAB

'Farmers are a priority'
BJP MP Maya Naroliya said under the Narendra Modi government, the allocation to agriculture sector had increased, helping the farmers to modernise farming systems. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) alone, she said ₹4 lakh crore was distributed to farmers.

"Farmers are priority for the government," she said, adding that India had become the world's largest rice producer.

Another BJP MP, Mahendra Bhatt, said the PM-Kisan scheme instilled confidence among farmers to further their livelihood.

Opposition parties say agriculture and dairy part of the India-U.S. bilateral trade agreement

"This is a truth that farmers have an important role in India. If farmers remained poor and if their interests were not protected, India could have also faced a famine-like situation that some other countries suffered," he said.

Aam Aadmi Party MP Sandeep Kumar Pathak said nobody was against the special intensive revision of voter lists but it should be a gradual process. "You are rushing an activity which should take two years in three months. Who on earth can achieve this? I am very sure it is not achievable," he said.

Ensuring energy security of Indians is top priority: govt.

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India's latest decisions on energy sourcing were taken keeping in mind the need for "diversifying" energy supplies, the External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday in response to a question regarding U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had "agreed to stop buying Russian oil".

Elaborating further on Mr. Trump's assertions regarding India agreeing to purchase crude oil from Venezuela, made on social media platform Truth Social on Monday, Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India "remains open to exploring the commercial merits" of crude oil supply from multiple sources, "including from Venezuela".

"Diversifying our energy sourcing in keeping with objective market conditions and evolving international dynamics is at the core of our strategy to ensure this. All of India's actions are taken and will be taken with this in mind," he said, highlighting that "ensuring energy security of 1.4 billion Indians is the supreme priority" for the government.

Russia had emerged as the biggest supplier of crude oil to India against the backdrop of the Ukraine conflict that erupted on February 24, 2022.

Russia attracted immediate sanctions from the West as the war escalated, but India maintained that the energy trade with Russia was in its interest. However, officials here indicated that India is weary of "overreliance" on any single source as such dependence increases the vulnerability of the Indian economy to any possible supply disruption.

Randhir Jaiswal

Ties with Venezuela
Mr. Jaiswal described Venezuela as a "long-standing partner of India in the energy sector encompassing trade and investments". "Consistent with India's approach to energy security, India remains open to exploring the commercial merits of any new crude supply options, including from Venezuela," he said.

Mr. Jaiswal described the India-U.S. trade deal announced by Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump on Monday as one of the biggest commercial moves by the two sides.

"This agreement will give a major boost to India's export, labour intensive industries, job creation, growth and bring prosperity to our people," he said.

In remarks shared with the news agency ANI, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that he was not "directly" part of the negotiations on the deal and referred to the role played by Mr. Goyal.

"It is hard for me to say, and the Commerce Minister would know it better, because he is in direct engagement with the U.S. Trade Representative," Mr. Jaishankar said, adding that "a detailing of the trade negotiations is under way as we speak".

Take note of Assam CM's 'hate speech', group urges Gauhati HC

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A group of 43 citizens have urged the Gauhati High Court to take *suo motu* cognisance of "repeated instances of hate speech and constitutional impropriety" by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

The citizens included academic Hiren Gohain; retired Director-General of Police Harekrishna Deka; former Archbishop of Guwahati Thomas Menamparampil; Ajit Kumar Bhuyan, MP; and environmental scientist Dulal Chandra Goswami.

In a memorandum submitted to the Chief Justice on Thursday, they cited public statements by the Chief Minister, which, they say, targeted the Bengal-origin Muslim community, called the *'Miya'* community. According to the representation, the remarks go beyond political rhetoric and amount to dehumanisation, collective stigmatisation, and threats of state-backed harassment.

'Social humiliation'
The memorandum highlighted a recent statement attributed to Mr. Sarma in which he allegedly urged people to make members of the community "suffer", including by underpaying them for their services. The citizens argued that such remarks, coming from the State's highest executive authority, constitute an incitement to economic discrimination and social humiliation, violating the right to live with dignity under Article 21.

They also raised concerns over alleged executive interference in the ongoing process of the Special Revision of the electoral rolls. Urging the court to intervene, they have sought directions for registration of cases, protection of the affected community's dignity and security, and reaffirmation of constitutional discipline and secular governance.

Okram Ibobi Singh is new Manipur unit chief of Cong.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday appointed former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh as its Manipur unit chief, replacing K. Meghachandra.

The party appointed Mr. Meghachandra as the new Congress Legislature Party Leader (CLP) with K. Ranjit Singh as his deputy. Mr. Ibobi Singh was the CLP leader till now.

Victor Keishing and Manga Vaiphei have been appointed working presidents, according to a party release.

INBRIEF

Procurement of minor forest produce dips 92% in 2024-25

Government procurement of minor forest produce (MFP) at minimum support price (MSP) saw a sharp dip in 2024-25 compared to the year before, with data tabled in Parliament on Thursday showing that the amount of MFP procured across 19 States dropped by over 92% from 2023-24 to 2024-25. Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram tabled the data in response to a question on MFP procurement by Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Mr. Oram said that the Tribal Affairs Ministry had, till date, released ₹319.65 crore to State governments for the procurement of MFP at MSP.

Senior Maoist leader killed in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur

A senior leader of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) was gunned down by the security forces in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh on Thursday, the police said. Udham Singh, a divisional committee member of the South Bastar division, had been with the outfit for over 20 years, a police officer said, adding that he carried a reward of ₹8 lakh on his head. Based on a tip-off about the presence of Singh and other armed Maoists in a forested, hilly area under the Tarrem police station, a joint team of the District Reserve Guards, Bijapur, and CoBRA personnel took part in the operation, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Yadav said.

SC flags States' preference for 'ad-hoc' DGP appointments

CJI-led Bench says States are opting for 'Acting' police chiefs of their choice in violation of 2006 verdict, directs UPSC to approach top court if process for appointing regular DGPs is delayed

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday observed that States were avoiding appointment of regular Directors-General of Police (DGPs) with a fixed tenure of two years, opting instead for "Acting" police chiefs of their choice in violation of a 20-year-old top court judgment.

The court, in a 2006 judgment in the *Prakash Singh* case, had made it clear that the office of DGP should be divorced from political or other external pressures and cautioned governments against mixing politics and law enforcement.

It had invoked its extraordinary powers under Article 142 to direct that DGPs must be selected by States from among the three senior-most and meritorious officers empanelled by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The court had thrown out the "concept" of Acting DGPs. It had held that State police chiefs should have a minimum fixed tenure of two years.

> There are several States which keep on delaying the submission of proposals for appointment of regular DGPs in total disregard of the direction of the Supreme Court in the Prakash Singh case... An ad-hoc arrangement by appointing an Acting DGP is preferred
>
> SUPREME COURT

Subsequent top court orders in July 2018 and March 2019 detailed the appointments mechanism, which included the State concerned sending a proposal to the UPSC three months ahead of the retirement of the incumbent DGP. The UPSC would prepare a panel of suitable officers. The State would appoint one of the empanelled officers as DGP "immediately".

On Thursday, the UPSC informed a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant that the reality on the ground hardly resembled the process envisaged in the 2006 judgment.

The Bench was hearing the case of Telangana, where the UPSC said the last regular DGP retired about nine years ago, in November 2017. The State had not forwarded any proposals to initiate the appointment of a regular DGP, choosing to carry on with 'Acting' DGPs. "A State will send a proposal only when it wants to appoint a certain officer," Chief Justice Kant said.

Meritorious officers

The court said many meritorious and senior police officers had lost their opportunity at becoming DGPs owing to the "inordinate delay" shown by State governments to send proposals to the UPSC. "There are several States which keep on delaying the submission of proposals for appointment of regular DGPs in total disregard of the direction of the Supreme Court in the *Prakash Singh* case... An ad-hoc arrangement by appointing an Acting DGP is preferred," the Bench observed.

The court said the UPSC should not fall into ploys of the States. The Bench directed the Commission to write to States to send timely proposals for appointment of regular DGPs whenever such an occasion arises in the future. The Bench gave the UPSC liberty to approach the Supreme Court in case the States chose to ignore such communication.

"Then necessary consequences, including accountability of those responsible for the delay would follow," the court observed in its order.

Noting that there was a "serious lapse" on the part of Telangana in not sending a timely proposal to the UPSC, it gave the Commission four weeks to hold meetings and make the recommendations to the Telangana government on the appointment of a regular DGP.

UPSC adds more norms for Civil Services aspirants

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A notification says that the conditions will apply to those allotted IPS or any 'Group A' service

The Union Public Services Commission has expanded the restrictions on applying for the Civil Services Examination from 2026 for candidates who are allotted the Indian Police Service or any other Central Services Group "A", said the notification for the 2026 exam issued on Wednesday.

The notification said the UPSC was looking to fill approximately 933 vacancies this year, of which 33 would be reserved for Persons with Benchmark Disability.

While keeping the restrictions for those already allotted the Indian Administrative Service or the Indian Foreign Service in past CSEs unchanged, it introduced a set of conditions. A candidate allotted any of these services in the CSE 2026 would be eligible for the CSE 2027 if they are granted an exemption from training for that service by the "authority concerned".

The notification added that the candidate would be eligible for grant of one-time exemption only from joining the training in order to enable him/her to appear in CSE-2027. It added that such a candidate should join the training for "foundation course only".

Further, the notification said that such candidates would not be allowed to appear in CSE 2028 or any subsequent CSEs "unless he/she resigns from the allocated service".

One-time opportunity

The notification said that candidates who had been allotted any service based on CSE 2025 or earlier years, would have "a one-time opportunity" to appear either in this year's examination or the one for 2027 without having to resign from their service.

If their aim was to use their remaining attempts for CSE 2028 or subsequent exams, they would have to follow the resignation rule, the UPSC said.

The notification said that this set of conditions would apply to those being allotted Indian Police Service or any Central Service categorised as Group A.

NHRC issues notice over exploitation of women at gyms

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The authorities have been asked to submit a response within two weeks for the Commission's perusal

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued notice to the Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories, the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and the Sports Authority of India over allegations of exploitation and forced religious conversion of women at gyms and fitness centres.

The notice was issued by NHRC member Priyank Kanoongo who said that numerous cases of sexual exploitation of women targeted by trainers in gyms and fitness clubs had come to light from various places across the country.

"Additionally, from a health perspective as well, substandard food supplements and uncontrolled physical activities also pose a threat to human life. Therefore, notices have been issued to all State governments, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, and sports authorities, summoning information regarding the rules and guidelines related to the establishment/operation of gyms/fitness centers. So that steps can be taken in the direction of controlling unethical activities in this sector," he wrote on X.

The authorities have been asked to submit a response within two weeks for perusal of the Commission.

Shah launches India's first cooperative ride service

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home, Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday launched Bharat Taxi, India's first cooperative-led ride-hailing platform, after a successful two-month pilot operation.

The service has been initially launched in Delhi-NCR and Gujarat, and will be expanded across all States and Union Territories within two years.

"In three years, Bharat Taxi will be rolled out across the country, from Kashmir to Kanniyakumari and Dwarka to Kamakhya," Mr. Shah said after launching the platform. He said the profits will be shared with drivers associated with Bharat Taxi. Customers can hail cars, three-wheelers and two-wheelers through the platform.

MSF raises concerns over FTA impact on medicines in India

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), an international aid organisation that provides emergency medical assistance to populations in distress in more than 80 countries, has written to the European Union expressing its concern over the recently announced EU-India Free Trade Agreement.

The group said that the proposed restrictive provisions will have major consequence for access to medicines in India and the rest of the developing world. "We are concerned that the EU-India FTA may contain provisions with dire consequences for access to medicines in India and the rest of the developing world," MSF said in its letter to the European Commissioner for Trade.

"They will strengthen and extend the monopoly rights of multinational pharmaceutical manufacturers at the expense of patients in India and beyond," the group warned.

MSF has specifically expressed concern over data exclusivity that could effectively block compulsory licences, patent term extensions, enforcement and border measures that seek to detain imports or exports of good suspected of infringing intellectual property rights.

It also said that some provisions of the negotiation seeks to limit, and in some cases completely block, generic competition. "Generic competition has proven to be key in lowering the prices of medicines...," the letter said.

Webinar on biotechnology education, skill development to be held on February 8

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Vellore Institute of Technology, Chennai, in association with *The Hindu*, has launched the "Biotechnology: Role in Industry 5.0 - Sustainable Future Pathways" initiative to examine the expanding role of biotechnology in an Industry 5.0 landscape that emphasises human-centric innovation, sustainability, and technological integration.

As biotechnology continues to drive advances across healthcare, agriculture, environmental solutions, and research-led innovation, the initiative seeks to create wider awareness of its societal impact while positioning it as a dynamic and future-ready career domain.

VIT CHENNAI
Biotechnology: Role in Industry 5.0
Sustainable Future Pathways
THE HINDU
a webinar on
Biotechnology Education: Skills & Opportunities For A Sustainable Future

As part of this ongoing initiative, the second webinar in the series, titled "Biotechnology Education: Skills & Opportunities for a Sustainable Future", will focus on how education and skill development in biotechnology are evolving to meet these emerging demands.

The second webinar will be held on February 8, 2026 from 11.30 a.m. onwards. It will bring together experts from academia, international education, and research, to discuss how biotechnology education is evolving to meet the demands of a sustainable and innovation-led future.

The webinar will feature G. Jayaraman, professor and dean, School of Bio Sciences and Technology, VIT Chennai; Pooja Shivanand Breh, Environmental and Life Sciences Programme, Faculty of Science, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei; K.S. Nagabhushana, Director – Research, Prayoga Institute of Education Research, Bengaluru; and Jayanthi Velayudhan, Project Post Doctoral Fellow and alumni, VIT. The discussion will be moderated by Soma Basu, journalist.

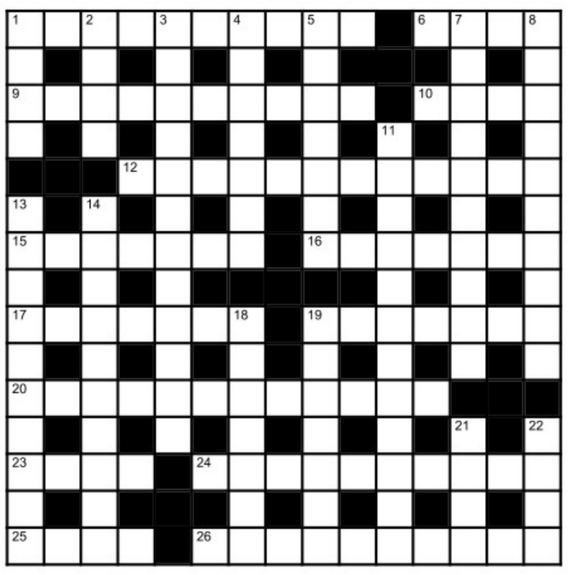
To register, visit *https://newsth.live/THVITBTSE* or scan the QR code.

TH CROSSWORD + 14710

(set by Bruno)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Post-graduate hiding dead girl with sheet (10)
6 Spice's odour turning estate's core inhabitants out (4)
9 More fighting - guerrilla finally escapes with family (10)
10 Greek Goddess's loss of heart in earth sadly (4)
12 Straps designed with a bend and decorated like a flag (4-8)
15 Circular displaying head of communist revolutionary (7)
16 Model's bottoms - one concealing nothing is tops! (1-6)
17 Agricultural product from a very old company displaying a date (7)
19 Setter's excited being part of attempt to retract ragtag army (7)
20 Assembly embargoed bananas after seeing money stuffed in (5,7)
23 One chosen to convey answer (4)
24 Dodgy part of city square's last line with worn interior's redesigned (10)
25 Sailor left Shanghai channel (4)
26 Teen milling around very loud riot often recklessly robbing contents has cheek (10)

Down

1 Spy week? (4)
2 Realtors pitching outskirts... it's low! (4)
3 Cabins slated to be renovated with stretchy things (7,5)
4 After some time, a language becomes creative (7)
5 Game popular in Spain and Utah (4,3)
7 Delight of perverted liar consumed by old hostility (10)
8 Drink label has upturned flower (10)
11 Ultimately, running hotel's hard (2,3,4,3)
13 Old custom - to put hand in mouth and put on black register (5,5)
14 Essential part of testimony - a cop hid it, surprisingly for unknown causes (10)
18 How I would refer to setter's working style, mainly, during leave? Kicking back! (7)
19 Man waving red flag returning from Belgorod - a Tamilian (7)
21 Fail to win not so tight ODIs, initially getting out (4)
22 Individual working largely in the peripheries (4)

SUDOKU

	7			3				
			2				8	4
	5		4				7	3
		8	9					5
5				2				1
9					5	2		
7	2				3		5	
3	4				8			
				1			4	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

R	I	C	O	C	H	E	T		S	P	R	A	Y	S
A		L		R		X		T		O		C		L
K	O	I	C	A	R	P		R	I	S	O	T	T	O
I		C		N		R		A		E		O		W
S	A	H	I	B		E	F	F	O	R	T	F	U	L
H		E		E		S		F				G		A
			D	R	E	S	S	I	N	G	G	O	W	N
A		T		R		I		C		U		D		E
M	E	R	R	Y	G	O	R	O	U	N	D			
A		A				N		F		T		A		T
R	U	N	F	O	U	L	O	F		U	L	N	A	R
N		S		P		E		E		R		T		O
A	F	F	A	I	R	S		N	A	R	W	H	A	L
T		E		N		S		C		E		E		L
H	E	R	M	E	S		B	E	D	T	I	M	E	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	7	6	9	4	3	5	1	8
8	5	3	1	6	7	9	4	2
1	4	9	2	5	8	6	7	3
6	1	7	3	9	4	2	8	5
5	9	2	6	8	1	4	3	7
3	8	4	5	7	2	1	9	6
7	6	5	4	3	9	8	2	1
9	3	1	8	2	5	7	6	4
4	2	8	7	1	6	3	5	9

FAITH

Bring home Mahalakshmi

Every day is a good day to pray to Mahalakshmi. However, Fridays falling in the Tamil month of *Thai* are considered extra special. Mahalakshmi is the repository of everything that a devotee needs in this life and needs to be blessed in order to pray to Her or listen to discourses on Her, said Damal Perundevi. When one recites or listens to Swami Vedanta Desikan's Sri Stuti, one can be assured of Mahalakshmi's blessings.

Why does Mahalakshmi enjoy this exalted status?

In the Ramayana, when Vali lies wounded, he looks at Rama and says, "You have attacked me and wounded me. This has happened only because Janaka's daughter Sita, the manifestation of Mahalakshmi, is not with you. Had She been by your side, you would not have harmed me." She is the one who makes everything better. When Perumal joined the devas and asuras as they churned the Milky Ocean, with his locks of hair dancing due to the effort, Mahalakshmi emerged from it, glowing brilliantly like the light of one crore suns. She placed Her garland around Perumal and He gave Her a place in His heart, where She always resides. He churned the ocean for the ultimate *amrut*, Mahalakshmi. Wherever there is *Mangalam* (auspiciousness, welfare), there will be Her abode.

The only time She enters any other place is when She is moved by the devotion of Her devotees: She rushes to their homes, ever ready to shower Her grace, blessings and prosperity. When a poor bachelor appealed to Vedanta Desikan for funds for his wedding, the great preceptor composed Sri Stuti and Mahalakshmi responded by showering wealth. She showers lasting wealth on all.

INBRIEF

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles posts ₹3,483 cr. loss

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles on Thursday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹3,483 crore for the third quarter ended December 2025, impacted significantly by the cyber incident at its British arm, Jaguar Land Rover. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹5,485 crore in the corresponding quarter of the last fiscal. Consolidated total revenue from operations stood at ₹70,108 crore compared with ₹94,472 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

Govt. says 2,645 posts vacant at AAI, 3 aviation regulators

A total of 2,645 positions are lying vacant at the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and three aviation regulators DGCA, BCAS and AERA, the government said on Thursday. In a written reply to Lok Sabha, MoS for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said adequate steps are taken from time to time to fill up vacancies under the ministry, including its attached offices and regulatory bodies. At the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, there are 787 vacancies, largely due to the creation of 441 additional posts as part of the restructuring undertaken during 2022-2024. PTI

TRAI issues telecom services interconnection regulations

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Thursday issued the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2026. The salient features include clearly defined timelines for audits, wherein distributors have to conduct audit and submit audit report to broadcasters by September 30 every year; audit to be done on financial year basis in place of calendar year; and presence of broadcasters' representatives during audit to ensure transparency and credibility.

India, GCC nations sign terms of reference for FTA

Appropriate that we enter a robust trading arrangement for greater free flow of goods and services, and predictability, stability to policy: Goyal

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Representatives of India and the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on Thursday signed the Terms of Reference for negotiations on a free trade agreement (FTA). The GCC countries are together India's largest merchandise trade partners, with total merchandise trade exceeding that done with even the EU and the U.S.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) were signed by India's chief negotiator for the FTA, Additional Secretary Ajay Bhadoo, and his counterpart representing the Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Raja Al Marzouki. The signing of the ToR is a necessary precursor for the start of formal negotiations. The GCC countries

The GCC countries are together India's largest merchandise trade partners.

are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

"It is most appropriate that we now enter into a much stronger and robust trading arrangement, which will enable a greater free flow of goods and services, bring predictability and stability to policy, help encourage greater degree of investments and take our bilateral relations between the six nation GCC group and India to greater heights," Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who presided over the signing, said in his speech.

Bilateral benefit

Mr. Goyal pointed out that the two sides could significantly benefit from each other, with India's workforce both within the GCC countries as well as in India standing to gain from the eventual agreement.

"The GCC countries can help us with further diversification and growth of our energy sources, opportunities for our youth, and massive amounts of investments that different countries have already committed at different points of time, which will further get an impetus with a free trade agreement between India and the GCC nations," he added.

India-U.S. trade deal provides macro predictability: Nasscom

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian tech firms are increasingly contributing to AI-driven energy optimisation

The India-U.S. trade deal provided much-needed macro predictability at a time when technology, talent and trust are central to global competitiveness, said Nasscom President Rajesh Nambiar. "Indian technology companies are already delivering measurable outcomes for the U.S. economy – high-quality jobs, regional investment and innovation at scale," he said at a Nasscom U.S. CEO Forum meeting held in Washington DC , shortly after the announcement of the trade deal.

Energy security also emerged as a strategic priority, with the U.S. scaling AI-critical energy capacity and India integrating green and nuclear energy to support next-generation data centres, the forum noted.

According to the forum, Indian technology companies are increasingly contributing to AI-driven energy optimisation, grid analytics, and digital infrastructure, reinforcing the resilience of the U.S. innovation ecosystem.

The meeting held at Capitol Hill, brought together leading Indian technology business leaders and senior U.S. policymakers to advance a shared agenda focused on enhancing innovation, AI, trusted supply chains, workforce development and local job creation across the U.S., Nasscom said in a statement on Thursday.

Meanwhile, in another statement, Nasscom said AI models and tools would continue to drive exponential innovation and rapid adoption. "However, concerns that such tools will significantly disrupt or eliminate the technology services sector where India has a strong global presence are misplaced," the apex trade body said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	83,314	-0.60
US Dollar	90.34	0.14
Gold	1,60,600	-2.72
Brent oil	67.44	0.00

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2236.60	8.40
Adani Ports	1570.20	2.30
Apollo Hosp	7122.00	6.00
Asian Paints	2432.10	-20.60
Axis Bank	1330.60	-8.10
Bajaj Auto	9647.00	8.00
Bajaj Finserv	2000.10	-19.50
Bajaj Finance	964.75	1.45
Bharat Elec	432.90	-6.30
Bharti Airtel	1992.40	-33.40
Cipla	1333.30	6.60
Coal India	431.85	-3.05
Dr Reddys Lab	1244.90	4.70
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	DE*
Eicher Motors	7209.50	-68.00
Eternal Ltd.	286.85	-7.30
Grasim Ind	2863.90	19.00
HCL Tech	1610.00	-11.80
HDFC Bank	949.70	-3.40
HDFC Life	720.70	-1.80
Hindalco	935.45	-29.50
Hind Unilever	2354.40	-16.60
ICICI Bank	1396.50	-11.90
IntGlobeAvi	4932.20	-28.50
Infosys	1520.20	-15.60
ITC	310.20	-3.65
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	269.95	1.95
JSW Steel	1239.80	11.60
Kotak Bank	408.75	-3.60
L&T	4063.30	-23.80
M&M	3572.00	-2.00
Maruti Suzuki	15059.00	-12.00
Max Healthcare	1040.80	15.35
NestleIndia	1303.50	0.30
NTPC	367.00	-0.25
ONGC	269.20	2.25
PowerGrid Corp	289.35	-0.05
Reliance Ind	1443.40	-13.40
SBI Life	2017.80	-23.90
State Bank	1073.50	5.30
Shriram Finance Ltd.	992.00	-6.80
Sun Pharma	1702.60	-1.80
TataConsumerProduct	1155.90	2.90
Tata Steel	197.76	2.36
TCS	2991.50	-7.60
Tech Mahindra	1646.20	0.90
Titan	4097.60	-46.40
Tata Motors PV	374.15	-1.30
Trent Ltd.	4131.30	118.70
UltraTech Cement	12773.00	-33.00
Wipro	233.39	0.05

DE: Demerged Entity

RIL buys 2 mn barrels of Venezuelan oil

Reuters
NEW DELHI/SINGAPORE

India's Reliance Industries has bought 2 million barrels of Venezuelan oil from trader Vitol, trade sources said on Thursday, the first purchase by the company from the South American nation in nearly a year.

Reliance, which operates the world's biggest refining complex, has bought Venezuelan crude for April delivery at a discount of around $6.5-$7 per barrel to ICE Brent, the trade sources said.

Reliance did not respond to a *Reuters* email seeking comment.

IndianOil Q3 profit rises fourfold amid lower crude oil prices

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

State-owned refiner IndianOil's profit in the December-ended quarter accelerated more than four times on a year-on-year (YoY) basis fuelled by a favourable lower crude oil price regime.

The refiner's net profit, on a standalone basis, more than quadrupled to ₹12,125.86 crore from the comparable period last year.

Gross refining margin in the ongoing financial year until the end of December 2025 more than doubled from the comparable period last year to $8.41 for a barrel. Standalone revenue rose 6.62% on a year-on-year basis to ₹2.32 lakh crore in the reporting quarter.

Domestic sales increased approximately 5% on a year-on-year basis to 26.015 million metric tonnes (MMT).

PBPL arm's GMP certificates revoked

The National Centre for Public Health and Pharmacy, Hungary (NCPHP) has revoked the good manufacturing practice (GMP) certificates it had issued to Panacea Biotec Pharma's (PBPL) facility in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh.

LIC Q3 net climbs 17% to ₹12,958 crore on premium

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

State-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) reported standalone net profit for the December quarter increased more than 17% year-on-year to ₹12,958.22 crore.

The higher net profit came on 17.5% increase in the net premium income to ₹1,25,613.36 crore (₹1,06,891.48 crore). Total income increased almost 16% to ₹2,33,983.79 crore.

Consumers and firms in the life insurance industry have responded positively to the various initiatives of the government, especially

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) logo.

to GST 2.0, CEO and MD R. Doraiswamy said, referring to the GST exemption since September 22, from 18% earlier, on individual life insurance policies.

To queries on government's plans to cut stake in LIC, he said the government is committed to paring its holding by 10% as required within five years from the May 2022 IPO. The timing of the reduction will be decided by the government, he said.

On the proposed foray into health insurance, he said LIC is not moving fast on the plan to enter the sector by becoming a strategic investor in a standalone health insurer.

To a query on monetising real estate, Mr. Doraiswamy and other senior officials said the plan is to leverage the assets to enhance returns.

The Managing Director on behalf of
TAMIL NADU TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
Notice inviting Bids for the work as detailed in table below in

"SINGLE BID and TWO BID SYSTEM" (LUMPSUM CONTRACT) e-Tender Notice Reference No.0317/Engg/Proj/ 2026 Dt: 04.02.2026

Sl. No	Name of work	Earnest Money Deposit(in Rs.)	Tender Last date	Tender Opening Date
	SINGLE BID SYSTEM			
i	Development with Tourist Infrastructures at Sherverayan Hills, Yercaud in Salem District.	Rs.3,35,000/-	18.02.2026	18.02.2026
ii	Development of Tourist basic amenities at Karumanthurai Fruit farm in Kalvarayan Hills, Salem District.	Rs.1,47,000/-	18.02.2026	18.02.2026
iii	Development of Tourist basic amenities at Manimuktha Dam in Kalvarayan Hills, Kallakurichi District.	Rs.2,00,000/-	18.02.2026	18.02.2026
iv	Development of Tourist basic amenities at Gomuki Dam in Kalvarayan Hills, Kallakurichi District	Rs.3,46,000/-	18.02.2026	18.02.2026
v	Setting up of an Adventure and Eco – Camping Site at Ariyaman Beach, Ramanathapuram District	Rs.1,43,000/-	18.02.2026	18.02.2026
	TWO BID SYSTEM			
vi	Development of Tourist Infrastructures in Yelagiri of Tirupattur District.	Rs.8,67,000/-	19.02.2026	19.02.2026

2	Download tender document	Through Online https://tntenders.gov.in/
3	Time/Date of receipt/ opening of bids	I) Last date and time for submission of Bid documents along with EMD upto 3.00 PM on mentioned date above. ii) Opening of bids will be on 3.30 PM on mentioned date above.
4	Address for Communications	The Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation, No.2, Wallajah Road, Tourism Complex, Chennai Tamil Nadu - 600 002, India Website: www.ttdconline.com Email: pe.ttdc@gmail.com Phone: 044-2533 3555

DIPR/778/TENDER/2026 MANAGING DIRECTOR

National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology, Chennai
MeitY, Govt. of India

Vacancies for Multiple Position (Purely Contract Basis)

- **Senior Project Engineer** (Data Science) - 01 No.
- **Project Engineer** (Data Science) - 01 No.
- **Project Engineer** (VLSI) - 01 No.
- **Project Engineer** (3DPAM) - 01 No.
- **Project Engineer** (RPA) - 01 No.
- **Training Coordinator** - 01 No.
- **Project Associate** (Training) - 01 No.
- **Senior Administrative Assistant** - 02 Nos.
- **Senior Accounts Assistant** - 01 No.
- **MTS** - 01 No.

Online Interview will be held on 23.02.2026
For further details, please visit: https://rect.nielitchennai.edu.in
E-mail : **chennai@nielit.gov.in** Ph : **+91 9445880125**
Adv.No.01/04/2025/Recruitment/07 **Director i/c**

No. 04 /SSB Dated. 05.02.2026
TENDER CALL NOTICE

Sealed Cover Tenders are hereby invited from the reputed Registered Firms/ Companies/Agencies for Work related to **"Generation of Admit Cards, Printing and Supplying of OMR Answer Sheets, its Scanning & Processing of various Results of various Recruitment Examination"** to the State Selection Board, Higher Education Department, Bhubaneswar-751009 within **06.02.2026 to 05.03.2026 (5 P.M.)**

The authority reserves the right to cancel or reject any or all the tender without assigning any reasons thereof. The details of tender papers along with terms and conditions can be obtained from **www.ssbodisha.ac.in**. The Tender paper should be reached in the office of the undersigned through Speed Post only.

Secretary
State Selection Board
11001/9/2526 OIPR-11001/11015/1/25-26/0009

Government of Tamil Nadu
S.1565 Palace Nagar Co-Operative House Building Society Ltd.
Cherry Road, Salem-1

e-TENDER NOTICE

Salem Palace Nagar Co-Operative House Building Society Owned Property Sale Of Apartment House, Shops and Commercial Complex Space.

Tender Document available Bid submission start date and Time	**https://tntenders.gov.in** in the e-Tender portal **06-02-2026 at 09.00 AM**
Tender Reference	**PNCOHBS_S1565_2026**
Bid Submission End Date and Time	**27-02-2026 at 09.00 AM**

Further Details
Contact No: 94864 34227
DIPR/788/TENDER/2026 **Administrator / Secretary**

Government of Odisha, "e"- Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. C.C.E.Dkl.(R&B)16/2025-26
Letter No.252 / Dt.02/02/2026 Email Id- sedklpwd@gmail.com

The Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building work as detailed below:

1. Name of the work : **Building work**
2. No of works : **01 (One) No.**
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs. 2.54 Crore (as given in column No.03 of table)**
4. Cost of tender paper : **Rs.10,000.00**
5. Class of contractor : **'B' Class & 'A' Class (as given in column No.07 of table)**
6. Period of Completion of work : **07 (Seven)** Calendar months **(as given in column No.08 of table)**
7. Date and time of availability of bid Document in the website : From Dt.**09.02.2026** to **5.00 P.M. of Dt.23.02.2026**
8. Date of opening of bid : Dt.**24.02.2026** at **11.00 A.M.**

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE biding only, further details can be seen from the e- Procurement Portal : **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal
34001/15/2526 OIPR-34001/34132/1/25-26/0015

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
UNIT-VIII, BHUBANESWAR
e-mail: theocctd@odishaconstruction.com
"e"-Procurement Notice No. 58 /OCCL/2025-26 (on-line)
Bid Identification No.OCCL-LSSP/04/2025-26

Online tenders are invited for EPC Contract for "Construction of In-stream storage structure (ISS) across river Indra/Sundar near village **Patharla** in the district Bolangir including Hydro-mechanical works, Power Connectivity works, Road Connectivity, Staff Quarters including Survey, Investigation, Planning, Design and Estimate of all Components with Operation and Maintenance of the project for a period of five years or five Flood Seasons whichever is more after successful commissioning of the Project."

1.	Name of Work	**Construction of In-stream storage structure (ISS) across river Indra/Sundar near village Patharla in the district Bolangir including Hydro-mechanical works, Power Connectivity works, Road connectivity, Staff Quarters including Survey, Investigation, Planning, Design and Estimate of all Components with Operation and Maintenance of the project for a period of five years or five Flood Seasons whichever is more after successful commissioning of the Project."**
2.	Approximate Value of work put to Tender	**Rs.165.72 Crore**
3.	Period of Completion	**30 Calendar months including rainy seasons**
4.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	**From Dt.06.02.2026, 10.00 AM to Dt.23.03.2026, 5.00 PM**
5.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	**Date - 23.03.2026, 5.00 PM**
6.	Name & address of the officer Inviting Bid	**Managing Director, OCCL**

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **http://tendersodisha.gov.in**
Managing Director, OCCL, Bhubaneswar.
34001/26/2526 OIPR-34001/34176/1/25-26/0026

ODISHA STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
REGISTERED OFFICE: C/2, NAYAPALLI, BHUBANESWAR-751012
CIN : U51211OR1980SGC000894
Tel No: 0674-2395391, Fax No-0674-2395291, Website: www.oscsc.in
Request for Proposal (RFP) for Empanelment of manufacturers to supply FORTIFIED RICE KERNEL (FRK) for the KMS 2025-26 in the state of Odisha
File No. OSCSC-PROC-PROC-0042-2025
RFP Advt. No. 2051 /OSCSC Ltd., Date : 05.02.26

Proposals are invited from interested bidders registered under the Companies Act-1956/2013 or any other legal entity registered in India and having valid registration certificate and eligibility as per the criteria given in the Request for Proposal (RFP) published in the official website **www.foododisha.in & www.oscsc.in & www.tendersodisha.gov.in** for **'Empanelment of Manufacturers to supply FORTIFIED RICE KERNEL (FRK) for the KMS 2025-26'** in the state of Odisha. The details of timetable of the RFP are as under.

Sl No	Event Description	Date
1	Publication of RFP in website	06/02/2026 at 18:00 Hours
2	Pre-Bid Meeting	17/02/2026 at 15:00 Hours at Office of OSCSC Ltd., C/2, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012
3	Last Date and time for submission of Proposal	02/03/2026 at 17:00 Hours through online at www.tendersodisha.gov.in
4	Opening of Technical Proposal	05/03/2026 at 11:00 Hours at Office of OSCSC Ltd., C/2, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012
5	Opening of Financial Bid	09/03/2026, 11:00 Hours Any Change to the aforementioned scheduled date, the same will be intimated through online and registered e-mail id for the technical qualified bidders.

Any amendment in the tender document due to decision in pre-bid meeting/extension of bid, if any, shall be notified in the websites mentioned above. The proposals shall be submitted through online mode at **www.tendersodisha.gov.in.** The authority reserves the right to cancel any or the entire selection process without assigning any reason thereof.
Managing Director, Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited
7001/3/2526 OIPR-7001/7002/1/25-26/0003

Bharti Q3 net up 34% on subscriber growth

Reuters

Bharti Airtel, India's second-largest mobile carrier by number of users, posted its seventh straight quarterly profit rise on Thursday, as subscribers upgraded to higher-margin telecom plans amid steady rise in the customer base.

Bharti Airtel's industry-leading average revenue per user (ARPU) rose 5.7% year-on-year to ₹259 during the quarter with the share of users on faster 4G and 5G connections rising.

Bharti Airtel's India user base rose 12.6% year-on-year to 465.9 million as of December 31, 2025.

Consolidated pre-tax profit rose 34.4% to ₹12,558 crore ($1.39 billion) from

A man walks across the logo of Bharti Airtel.

₹9,346 crore a year earlier.

The results include a ₹257 crore charge linked to the implementation of new labour codes.

The firm's year-earlier profit had got a ₹7,550-crore boost from a higher valuation of its stake in telecom infrastructure provider Indus Towers.

Alchemist: NCLT recalls CIRP after ED intervention

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) recalled the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) initiated in the case of Alchemist Limited, holding it was vitiated by fraud, collusion and malicious intent as claimed by the Enforcement Directorate.

The ED found Alchemist Holdings and Alchemist Township India allegedly collected over ₹1,840 crore from people for offering high returns/plots/villas/flats to investors. But investors neither got their money nor were given plots/villas/flats/high returns.

HAVANA

Power grid failure leaves hundreds of thousands in darkness in Cuba

AFP

A power grid failure in eastern Cuba plunged three entire provinces into darkness on Wednesday, utility officials said, leaving hundreds of thousands of people without electricity. The state-owned Union Electrica de Cuba said a fault at a substation in Holguin caused an electrical system disconnect that impacted the four provinces. AFP

RAMALLAH

West Bank displacement due to settler attacks hit record rate: UN

REUTERS

Israeli settler violence in the occupied West Bank displaced nearly 700 Palestinians in January, the United Nations said on Thursday, the highest rate since the Gaza war erupted in October 2023. To force Palestinians out, settlers resort to harassment, intimidation and violence, the settlement watchdog said. AFP

JOS

Nigeria President deploys Army after gunmen killed 162 people

REUTERS

Nigeria's President Bola Ahmed Tinubu deployed an army battalion to a troubled state after gunmen killed as many as 162 people in one of the country's deadliest attacks. The attack late Tuesday in Kwara State came after the military carried out operations in the area against what it called "terrorist elements". AFP

LAHORE

Imran's sons accuse Pak. govt. of refusing visa to meet their father

REUTERS

Suleman Khan and Kasim Khan, sons of Pakistan's incarcerated former Prime Minister Imran Khan, have accused the Shehbaz Sharif government of "deliberately" refusing visas to them, saying democracy in the country is "hollow" and basic human rights are being "crushed". Mr. Khan's sons are living in London. PTI

Nuclear diplomacy set to resume in Muscat as U.S., Iran stay far apart

Tehran says the format of the talks will mirror previous rounds held before the Israeli attacks in June 2025; U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio says the dialogue should include the range of Iran's ballistic missiles and its support for militant groups

Stanly Johny

After weeks of uncertainty and military tensions in the Persian Gulf, Iran confirmed on Thursday that it would hold nuclear talks with the U.S. in the Omani capital, Muscat, on Friday. However, statements from both sides indicated that wide gaps remain, starting with disagreements over the very format of the talks.

"Nuclear talks with the United States are scheduled to be held in Muscat at about 10 am Friday. I'm grateful to our Omani brothers for making all necessary arrangements," Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrote in a social media post. The White House had said on Tuesday that Steve Witkoff, a special envoy of President Donald Trump, would meet Iranian officials later this week. According to Iranian state media, Mr. Araghchi would lead the delegation, which would also include Majid Takht-Ravanchi, Iran's former Permanent Representative to the UN, and Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi.

Miles away: People walk past an anti-U.S. mural on a street in Tehran, Iran, on Thursday. REUTERS

"The format of the talks will mirror previous rounds held before the unlawful U.S.-Israeli war on Iran last June, which derailed the diplomatic process," said a report in the state-owned *Press TV*.

Mr. Araghchi and Mr. Witkoff had held five rounds of talks last year. Israel attacked Iran on June 13, just two days ahead of the scheduled sixth round of talks.

While Iran insists that talks should focus solely on its "peaceful nuclear programme", the U.S. wants the framework to also include Iran's ballistic missile production and its support for various militia groups in the region.

"If the Iranians want to meet, we're ready, " U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Wednesday at the State Department. "[T]hey will have to include certain things, and that includes the range of their ballistic missiles... their sponsorship of terrorist organisations across the region... the nuclear programme... the treatment of their own people," said Mr. Rubio, contradicting the Iranian claim that the talks would be only on the nuclear programme.

Pak. concludes offensive against militants; 216 killed

Reuters
KARACHI

Pakistan's military said on Thursday that it had concluded a week-long security operation against separatists in Balochistan, killing 216 militants in targeted offensives across the troubled southwestern province.

Balochistan, Pakistan's largest and poorest province, was brought to a virtual standstill on Saturday when the separatist Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) stormed schools, banks, markets and security installations across the region in one of their largest operations ever.

Residents look at a damaged bank on the outskirts of Quetta on February 1 after an attack by Baloch separatists. AFP

Largest attack

The military said 22 security personnel and 36 civilians were killed in the attacks. The BLA's coordinated strikes in over a dozen locations began after the military launched its "intelligence driven" Radd Al-Fitna 1 (countering chaos) operation, which the army said began on January 29.

"Through meticulous planning, actionable intelligence, and seamless joint execution Pakistan's security forces and law enforcement agencies with support of intelligence agencies under Operation Radd-ul-Fitna-1 responded with precision and resolve," the military said in a statement, adding that 216 militants had been killed since the operation began.

The end of New START and a new era of nuclear rivalry

NEWS ANALYSIS

Vasudevan Mukunth

The New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) officially expired on February 5, marking the end of the last remaining bilateral agreement constraining the nuclear arsenals of the U.S. and Russia. The New START treaty emerged from a period of diplomatic reset between Washington and Moscow in the late 2000s.

After entering into force on February 5, 2011, New START set up verifiable limits on the strategic offensive arms of both nations, including capping the number of deployed warheads to 1,550, and required both parties to reach these limits within seven years and maintain them thereafter. It also allowed 18 on-site inspections a year, mandated data exchange, and set up a bilateral commission to resolve issues.

New START was constantly beleaguered. Russia often argued that U.S. missile defense systems undermined the strategic balance, suggesting that if one side could neutralise the other's retaliatory strike, the 'mutually assured destruction' dynamic would be broken. The U.S. expressed concerns over conventional prompt global strike capabilities, where precise conventional warheads are placed on ballistic missiles, systems that New START counted under its nuclear limits.

Later Russia also unveiled several novel strategic systems, including the Sarmat heavy ICBM and the Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle. While

The treaty was originally set to expire in 2021. AP

the U.S. successfully argued that these should be counted under New START, other systems like the nuclear-powered underwater drone Poseidon and nuclear-powered cruise missile Burevestnik remained outside the treaty's technical definitions.

No binding limits

The treaty was originally set to expire in 2021. Just days before the deadline, the Biden administration and the Kremlin agreed to a one-time, five-year extension, moving the expiration date to February 5, 2026. But in February 2023, after the conflict in Ukraine escalated and undermined bilateral relations, President Vladimir Putin said he was suspending Russia's participation in New START because, Moscow said, the U.S. was seeking a "strategic defeat" of Russia and that western aid to Ukraine made on-site inspections in Russia impossible. The U.S. soon followed.

Today, for the first time since 1972, there are no legally binding limits on the number of strategic nuclear weapons the U.S. and Russia can deploy. The formal channels to verify the locations and status of nuclear forces have ceased to exist, forcing intelligence agencies to rely entirely on satellite imagery and other unilateral methods, which are more error-prone and easier to politicise. Nuclear and non-nuclear strategic systems are also entangled today and that, together with the premium both sides place on non-contact options like cyberattacks, can threaten nuclear command and control without crossing a nuclear threshold. This is why analysts have stressed the loss of predictability rather than the appearance of new warheads alone.

New START's expiry also makes the prospect of including China and other nuclear states in a larger nonproliferation regime harder in practice. Washington can now argue that it shouldn't be the only state constrained while Beijing grows. Moscow can argue that it shouldn't accept constraints while NATO's aggregate capabilities shape its security environment. And Beijing has already argued that its arsenal is smaller than those of the U.S. and Russia and that therefore it's "not fair or reasonable" to demand it enter their disarmament framework now.

In 2025, Arms Control Association board chairman Thomas Countryman argued that the most realistic near-term path is a regime with three prongs: the U.S. and Russia establishing measures to restore basic level of transparency, the P5 group standardising definitions and modest transparency practices; and setting up of nonproliferation tools such as hotlines, launch notifications, incident prevention, and fissile material security, to involve more states without immediately forcing them to count each other's warheads.

U.K. sanctions RSF, Sudanese Army leaders over conflict

Reuters
LONDON

Britain sanctioned six individuals suspected of committing atrocities in Sudan's war or of fuelling the conflict through the supply of mercenaries and military equipment, the government said on Thursday.

The measures targeted senior commanders in both the Sudanese paramilitary group, Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and the Sudanese Armed Forces, the government said.

The conflict has displaced millions and caused a vast humanitarian crisis since it broke out in April 2023.

UN human rights agency in 'survival mode': chief

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The UN human rights chief said on Thursday his agency was "in survival mode" due to funding shortfalls, as he launched a $400 million appeal to tackle global rights crises in 2026.

Volker Turk warned countries that at a time when global human rights are under significant assault, his office was facing dire funding shortages hampering its life-saving work.

The UN human rights office lost around 300 out of 2,000 staff last year and had to end or scale back its work in 17 countries.

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WBSETCL
NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/SST/25-26/37 Date: 06.02.2026
E-Tender is invited from eligible bidders having experience in doing similar nature of work for supply of 10 nos. 33/0.415 KV 315 KVA Station Service Transformers and 15 nos. 33/0.415 KV 100 KVA Station Service Transformers. Bid documents can be downloaded from **06.02.2026, 10:00 A.M.** and bids shall be submitted up to **04:00 P.M., 04.03.2026.**
Visit the following websites - www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details.
ICA-T2996(3)/2026

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, RNT MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER ASSOCIATED GROUP OF HOSPITALS, UDAIPUR (Raj.)
No. RNT/Pur-I/F.16/(e-Tendering Proc)/2025-26/190 Dated : 27.01.2026
Notice Inviting Bid No.32/2025-26 (e-Tender)
Bids for Medical Equipments / Goods are invited from interested bidders upto Date :- 16.02.2026 Time:- 01.30 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. Estimated Cost -1027.50 Lac
UBN -
MCU2526GLOB00427, MCU2526GLOB00428, MCU2526GSOB00429, MCU2526GLOB00430, MCU2526GLOB00431, MCU2526GLOB00432, MCU2526GLOB00433, MCU2526GLOB00434, MCU2526GLOB00435, MCU2526GLOB00436, MCU2526GLOB00437, MCU2526GLOB00438, MCU2526GLOB00439, MCU2526GLOB00440, MCU2526GSOB00441, MCU2526GLOB00442, MCU2526GSOB00443, MCU2526GLOB00444, MCU2526GLOB00445, MCU2526GLOB00446, MCU2526GSOB00447, MCU2526GLOB00448, MCU2526GSOB00449, MCU2526GSOB00450, MCU2526GSOB00451, MCU2526GLOB00452, MCU2526GLOB00453, MCU2526GLOB00454, MCU2526GLOB00455
DIPR/C/1998/2026 PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER

धुळे महानगरपालिका, धुळे
बांधकाम विभाग – ई–निविदा सुचना क्र.128, सन 2025–26
मा. आयुक्त, धुळे महानगपालिका, धुळे हे खालील कामाकरीता ई निविदा प्रणालीद्वारे (ऑनलाईन) महाराष्ट्र शासन सार्वजनिक बांधकाम विभाग यांचेकडील नोंदणीकृत ठेकेदार/ संस्था/ व्यक्तींकडुन **B_1** पद्धतीने **Percentage Rate** नुसार निविदा दर मागविण्यात येत आहे.

अ. क्र.	कामाचे नांव	अंदाजपत्रकीय रक्कम
मनपा निधी अंतर्गत..(सन 2025–26)		
1)	धुळे शहरातील अवधान येथील सर्व्हे नं. 62/1 येथे भटक्या कुत्रांसाठी शेल्टर हाउस तयार करणे.	2,89,89,818

उपरोक्त निविदांबाबतचा सविस्तर तपशिल https://mahatenders.gov.in या संकेतस्थळावर दि. 09/02/2026, सायं. 17.05 वाजेपासुन पहावयास मिळेल.
सही/–
जा.क्र./ धुमपा/ बां.वि./122/2025–26 उपायुक्त
दिनांक : 5/2/2026 धुळे महानगरपालिका, धुळे

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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
MARUTHAMALA P.O., VITHURA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Tel: 0471-2778044, 8146
NON-TEACHING STAFF RECRUITMENT 2026
IISER(T)/HR/001/2026 05.02.2026
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Thiruvananthapuram invites applications from eligible Indian nationals for various non-faculty posts - Assistant Engineer (Civil) (UR-1), Library Superintendent (UR-1), Jr. Technical Assistant (OBC-2), Office Assistant (MS) (UR-2, SC-1).
The last date of submission of applications online is by 17.00 hrs on 25.02.2026.
For detailed advertisement, please log on to:
https://www.iisertvm.ac.in/openings/active_openings?post_category=Administration
07/25-26 dt.05.02.2026 REGISTRAR

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The APTRANSCO invites bids online for Spec.No.PMM32-e-08/2026: Supply of 622 Nos. 33 KV Polymer LAs, 63 Nos. 132 KV Polymer LAs, 80 Nos. 220 KV Polymer LAs and 8 Nos. 400 KV Polymer LAs with 31mm/kV creepage distance. Date & Time of availability of above tender: 06.02.2026 at 6:00 PM. Website: **www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.** Contact No.CE/ Transmission: 0866-2429230.
RO No: GMCC/APTRANSCO/38/26 Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER/ TRANSMISSION

PUNJAB STATE GRAINS PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (PUNGRAIN)
ANAAJ BHAWAN, SECTOR-39-C, CHANDIGARH
Notice Inviting Tender
Bids are invited from bidders for the purchase of 18000 HDPE Monofilament Nets (Meshnets) for storage of wheat during RMS 2026-27 on behalf of all State Procuring Agencies (Pungrain, PSWC, Punsup and Markfed) in the State of Punjab.
For details log onto: https://eproc.punjab.gov.in or http://foodsuppb.gov.in
Bid Submission Start Date and Time: 10:00 AM on 06.02.2026
Bid Submission Last Date and Time: Till 06:00 PM on 22.02.2026.
Date and time of Opening Technical Bid: 10:00 AM on 23.02.2026.
Pre-bid Conference: On **10.02.2026** at **11:00 AM** in the Committee room, Anaaj Bhawan, Sector 39-C, Chandigarh.
Note: Any corrigendum(s)/addendum(s) to the e-tender shall be published on the above websites only.
1026/12/2025-26/7959 MANAGING DIRECTOR, PUNGRAIN

By E-Mail/e-Despatch E_Mail ID:-serwcbaripada@gmail.com; Ph.No.06792-261343/261344; Gangraj, Baripada
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA
"e" Procurement Notice for Weir on Bridge Work
Identification No.- Online Tender-Weir on Bridge N.C.B. No.406 for 2025-26
Letter No. 768 / Date : 29.1.26 //
1. Name of the Work : Construction of Weir adjacent to Bridge over Katra Nallah at 33th Km on Jharpokharia to Kulapata Road in the District of Mayurbhanj for the year 2024-25..
2. Total No. of Work : 01 Nos (One)
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.200.45 Lakhs (approximately).
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : As per Annexure
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W.Circle,Baripada. Technical Bid	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W.Circle,Baripada. Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada.	Weir on Bridge On-line N.C.B. No.406	Dt.10.02.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.25.02.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.24.02.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.26.02.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- Further details can be seen from the website : www.tendersorissa.gov.in
- Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.

Sd/- Er.A.K.Naik, Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Baripada.
25001/27/2526 OIPR-25001/25130/1/25-26/0027

PERIOD OF DOMINANCE

Three titles in as many years for RCB is amazing: Smriti

VIJAY SONEJI

Three titles in three years for the franchise is amazing. The role clarity we got from the support staff helped us a lot. I had the feeling that Georgia Voll would play a match-winning knock in the final, and I am happy for her. The group was hard-working and we believed we could do anything – RCB captain Smriti Mandhana.

SHOWING GRACE

I tried to bring energy to an exciting game: Harris on final

FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

I said to the girls that you get this opportunity only once. Want to quote Roger Federer and that he only won 54% of his points. We wanted to give it a good crack. I tried to bring a little bit of energy to what is an exciting game. In the crowd, there is a lot of representation, and we really appreciate that — Grace Harris.

OVER THE MOON

To play that way and perform in the final is super special, says Voll

VIJAY SONEJI

Disappointing we could not finish it together but what a great season it has been. To play that way in the final... could not have hit the ball better. To perform in the big game is super special. It's awesome watching her (Smriti Mandhana) go about it. She's one of the cleanest hitters I have ever seen – Georgia Voll.

THE BIG ONE

A battle between unbeaten teams as India takes on England in final

GETTY IMAGES

India and England, both unbeaten so far, will meet in the final of the ICC under-19 World Cup in Harare on Friday. While Ayush Matre's side will bank on its swashbuckling batting line-up to clinch a record-extending sixth title, Thomas Rew's team will look to its in-form skipper to deliver in the big clash.

Heady stuff: Royal Challengers Bengaluru capped a memorable campaign by edging out Delhi Capitals in a dramatic final. The six-wicket victory also helped Smriti & Co. draw level with Mumbai Indians' tally of two titles. VIJAY SONEJI

Smriti-Voll blitz powers RCB to second crown

The two put on a record 165-run stand for the second wicket as the Bengaluru side chases down 204 in a thrilling finish; the Delhi outfit falls short in a final for the fourth successive time

WPL-4

Vivek Krishnan
VADODARA

Smriti Mandhana and Georgia Voll couldn't have found a better occasion to produce a partnership for the ages.

With the Women's Premier League trophy up for grabs against Delhi Capitals at the Kotambi Stadium on Thursday, the Royal Challengers Bengaluru pair came together in pursuit of a target of 204 and left the opponent in a daze with a sublime show of strokeplay.

The record stand between skipper Smriti and Voll, worth 165 runs, helped RCB clinch its second title in four years. While Smriti caressed her way to a 41-ball 87 (12x4, 3x6), Voll hit 79 (54b, 14x4) as the southern side tracked down the highest target in a WPL final with six wickets in hand and two balls to spare.

The climax wasn't without its nervous moments as RCB lost three wickets in quick succession. With 10 runs needed by the Bengaluru outfit off the final over, bowled by Shree Charani, a couple of singles were followed by back-to-back fours from Radha Yadav to finish the game in style. Radha was dropped by Minnu Mani in the penultimate over of the chase.

For Jemimah Rodrigues' DC, a fourth straight runner-up finish will be a bitter pill to swallow.

Despite the dismissal of Grace Harris in the second over, RCB kept up with the asking rate through the partnership between Smriti and Voll. In the initial stages, Smriti didn't get much strike. Voll took charge – cheeky ramps behind the wicket, fierce cuts square on the off-side and elegant drives in front all flowed from the Australian's willow.

Through the middle overs, Smriti came into her own. She deployed her twinkling feet against spin in serene fashion, notably dancing down the track to Shree Charani for a six over long-on in the 11th over.

RCB's response with the bat overshadowed Jemimah's 37-ball 57. The rest of the Capitals batters chipped in with brisk contributions.

Laura Wolvaardt (44, 25b, 3x4, 2x6) and Chinelle Henry (35 n.o., 15b, 4x4, 2x6) provided the finishing kick with a blistering stand of 55 off just 24 balls. Wolvaardt also forged a 76-run partnership with Jemimah.

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS
Lizelle Lee c Harris b de Klerk 37 *(30b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Shafali Verma c Richa b Arundhati 20 *(13b, 3x4)*, Laura Wolvaardt run out 44 *(25b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Jemimah Rodrigues c de Klerk b Sayali 57 *(37b, 8x4)*, Chinelle Henry (not out) 35 *(15b, 4x4, 2x6)*; Extras (w-10): 10; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 203.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-49 (Shafali, 5.5 overs), 2-72 (Lee, 7.3), 3-148 (Jemimah, 15.6), 4-203 (Wolvaardt, 19.6).

RCB BOWLING
Bell 4-0-19-0, Sayali 4-0-46-1, Arundhati 4-0-40-1, Shreyanka 2-0-32-0, de Klerk 4-0-48-1, Radha 2-0-18-0.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Grace Harris b Henry 9 *(7b, 2x4)*, Smriti Mandhana b Henry 87 *(41b, 12x4, 3x6)*, Georgia Voll c Shafali b Minnu 79 *(54b, 14x4)*, Richa Ghosh c Minnu b Nandani 6 *(6b, 1x4)*, Nadine de Klerk (not out) 7 *(5b, 1x4)*, Radha Yadav (not out) 12 *(5b, 2x4)*; Extras (b-2, w-2): 4; Total (for four wkts. in 19.4 overs): 204.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-9 (Harris, 1.1), 2-174 (Voll, 16.3), 3-181 (Richa, 17.4), 4-191 (Smriti, 18.4).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Kapp 4-0-38-0, Henry 4-0-34-2, Nandani 4-0-41-1, Shree Charani 3.4-0-46-0, Shafali 1-0-9-0, Minnu 2-0-19-1, Sneh 1-0-15-0.

Toss: RCB.

PoM: Smriti.

RCB won by six wickets with two balls to spare to clinch the title.

The award winners
Orange Cap: Smriti Mandhana (RCB); *Purple Cap:* Sophie Devine (GG); *MVP:* Devine; *Emerging Player:* Nandani Sharma (DC).

Flight booked and we are going to Colombo, says Suryakumar

T20 WORLD CUP

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Captain Suryakumar Yadav has stressed that India is fully prepared to face Pakistan in the T20 World Cup preliminary-stage clash on February 15.

But he raised doubts about whether the decision-makers will be able to ensure the game takes place following the Government of Pakistan's directive to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) of not taking the field against India.

Let the games begin! The captains of the 20 teams which will vie for honours in the T20 World Cup. ICC

"Our mindset is pretty clear. We have not said no (to playing against Pakistan). They have.

"The ICC has given the fixture. Our flight is booked and we are going there (Colombo)," Suryakumar said during the pre-tournament captains' media interaction here on Thursday.

"Their (Pakistan's) decision is not in my control. I wish I could take their decision, but then, it is their call."

Last week, the Pakistan government announced via social media that the Pakistan team will forfeit the group match against India. While the International Cricket Council (ICC) responded through a media release, there has been no official dialogue between the PCB and the ICC regarding the fate of the contest so far.

Asked about his message to the ICC with the future of the world's most anticipated cricket fixture hanging in the balance, Suryakumar admitted that he was unsure how much the governing body could intervene.

"I feel it is not an easy job. It is not my call. I am sure they might be working out something as well, but since it has come from the other government or the nation, how can they (the ICC) help?" Suryakumar said.

"For them as well, I know it will be a difficult situation. But as I said, if we are told and the fixtures are ready, we will definitely go ahead."

The India captain reiterated that the team was never hesitant about facing Pakistan in multi-nation tournaments, as has been the norm for over a decade.

"We played them three times in the Asia Cup, we played some good cricket. We won (all the matches) and we were very happy. Similarly, if we get an opportunity in Colombo, we will definitely play," Suryakumar said.

Suryakumar's merry bunch looks the team to beat

Former champion Pakistan should progress to the Super Eight stage even if it forfeits the marquee game against India; Namibia, Netherlands and USA will hope to punch above their weight

Superstars: India's dashing opener Abhishek and Pakistan pace spearhead Afridi are capable of changing the complexion of a game inside the PowerPlay itself. FILE PHOTOS: RITU RAJ KONWAR, K.R. DEEPAK

T20 WC COUNTDOWN

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

A subcontinental rivalry overshadowing a global cricket tournament is again at play as the ICC Twenty20 World Cup is all set to commence during the weekend. The political undercurrents that simmer in matches involving India and Pakistan is being strongly felt in Group A.

The strident voices from across the Wagah border insist that the big clash between the neighbours at Colombo on February 15 is a non-starter. Just as the ICC, BCCI and PCB buckle down, Group A isn't just about India and Pakistan as Namibia, the Netherlands and the United States of America (USA), are also in the fray.

Even if Pakistan forfeits its game against India, the estranged neighbours should find a berth in the Super Eight stage. India, defending champion and No. 1 in the ICC T20I rankings, has a strong unit helmed by Suryakumar Yadav. Even if Sanju Samson's poor form is a worry, the team has enough firepower to prevail over opponents.

The recent 4-1 triumph over New Zealand highlighted the riches within India's playing XI and the larger squad. Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar, and Shivam Dube, flexing his all-rounder muscle, have flourished. Hardik Pandya lends balance while Jasprit Bumrah's pace, Arshdeep Singh's perseverance, and the guile of Axar Patel, Varun Chakaravarthy and Kuldeep Yadav, should keep the attack in good stead.

Defending a title in home conditions brings in the familiar comfort of the backyard and the attendant expectations of local fans, besides an Indian diaspora that will fly in. Currently, Suryakumar's merry bunch seems primed to cope and deliver well.

Meanwhile, Pakistan, mercurial, and stationed in Sri Lanka, has to find a voice. Salman Agha and his key men Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman and Shaheen Afridi need to be at their best. A former champion in cricket's shortest format, Pakistan has slipped over the years.

While in the popular narrative, dirges about West Indies prevail, the decline of Pakistan from the heady days of Imran Khan, Javed Miandad and Wasim Akram, remains a concern. Still, against the other opponents in Group A, Pakistan is expected to succeed.

For the remaining teams, a global championship offers both an honest mirror and an opportunity to dream big. There are enough lessons from history; in a 1987 World Cup game at Hyderabad, Dave Houghton's 142 helped Zimbabwe briefly threaten New Zealand. But it lit a spark and in the 1999 edition in England, Zimbabwe defeated India. Those were 50-over World Cups.

In the more abridged T20Is, lesser teams can mask flaws and dream big. This is the beacon that Namibia, the Netherlands and the USA should chase. Namibia has its former star Craig Williams as coach, while the Dutch have been bolstered by the presence of Max O'Dowd and Bas de Leede.

And the USA, helmed by Monank Patel, will lean on batter Saiteja Mukkamalla, and also hope some of the contests are as easy as tucking into street-side chaat, which most of its players relished in Mumbai.

The Group A schedule

DATE	TEAMS	VENUE	TIME
Feb. 7	Pakistan vs. Netherlands	Colombo (SSC)	11 a.m.
Feb. 7	India vs. USA	Mumbai	7 p.m.
Feb. 10	Netherlands vs. Namibia	Delhi	11 a.m.
Feb. 10	Pakistan vs. USA	Colombo (SSC)	7 p.m.
Feb. 12	India vs. Namibia	Delhi	7 p.m.
Feb. 13	USA vs. Netherlands	Chennai	7 p.m.
Feb. 15	USA vs. Namibia	Chennai	3 p.m.
Feb. 18	Pakistan vs. Namibia	Colombo (SSC)	3 p.m.
Feb. 18	India vs. Netherlands	Ahmedabad	7 p.m.

Note: Pakistan has decided to boycott its match against India at Colombo on February 15

It's all down to the 'Indian mentality', feels skipper Suryakumar

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Never has a team entered a men's T20 World Cup – a format as fickle as the weather – as clear favourites as India in 2026. Captain Suryakumar Yadav attributed it to a fundamental shift in approach, describing it as the emergence of the "Indian mentality".

"This is the Indian mentality. We have been playing some good brand of cricket for the last two-three years, but we have changed our thinking," Suryakumar said during the pre-tournament captains' media interaction here on Thursday.

"Earlier, we used to play bilateral (series) differently than the ICC tournaments, but now, be it an ICC event or (the) Asia Cup or even a bilateral (match), we try to play in the same manner.

"This is why, when we went to play the 2024 T20 World Cup, it did not feel any different. It felt like we have been playing this way for an entire year.

Doffing his hat: Suryakumar credits Gambhir for driving the cultural shift within the side. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

"Even now, the kind of cricket we have been playing for the last year, we will try to play the same way (in the T20 World Cup).

"And if we play well, the result will also be on our side."

Despite the historical trends – no team having won a T20 World Cup on home soil and none having successfully defended the title – India arrive with unprecedented momentum.

Their struggles in Test cricket aside, the partnership between head coach Gautam Gambhir and Suryakumar, which has spanned most of the 17-month cycle, has turned India into a dominant force in the shortest format. Since July 2024, India has lost just six of its 41 T20 Internationals.

Suryakumar did not hesitate in crediting Gambhir for driving the cultural shift within the side.

"It has been a wonderful journey since he (Gambhir) has taken over.

"The main thing is the atmosphere that he has created in the dressing room – that it's a team game. He has infused that personal milestones should be kept aside and the team goals are more important. It's been one year since he has been working on it," he said.

"For example, in the last match in Thiruvananthapuram, Ishan Kishan was in his 90s and he completed his hundred with a six. That is one thing he (Gambhir) is trying in the dressing room, keeping the personal milestones away and focusing on what's the team's goal and then the work towards it."

'We will try and showcase that the UAE is one of the teams coming up'

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Nineteen years ago, the inaugural ICC World T20 was a step into the unknown. The success of that event back in 2007 – driven in large part by India's triumph – led to the birth of the IPL, and the subsequent boom of the shortest format, which has reshaped the sport's landscape.

One person who played a key role in India's victory was coach Lalchand Rajput. The former Indian cricketer has since taken on other coaching assignments and is back at the T20 World Cup for the first time after the 2007 edition, as the UAE's head coach.

The Middle-Eastern country missed the 2024 edition but has made steady progress over the last 18 months under Rajput.

"We have worked very hard, and hopefully we'll try and showcase that the UAE is also one of the teams which is coming up now," said Rajput in a chat with *The Hindu*.

Coaching philosophy: Rajput believes the key is not to get overawed by the occasion or the opponent. R. RAGU

The Gulf team, slotted in Group D, will kick off its campaign against New Zealand at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium here before moving to New Delhi for its remaining matches against South Africa, Afghanistan and Canada.

In 2025, the UAE shocked Bangladesh 2-1 in a three-match T20 series ahead of the Asia Cup, and Rajput felt it showed what the team was capable of.

"It was very important for us because we don't play Test nations often. So, competing with them and showing that we can be as good as they are was huge. If you look at that, we could have won it even 3-0. That gave us the momentum and the boost. The players now believe themselves, yes, we can do it. And I think from there on, we just carried forward and we qualified for the World Cup."

Sharing his experience coaching associate countries, the former Mumbai opener stressed that a key aspect he emphasises is not getting overawed by the occasion or the opponent.

In last year's Asia Cup, the UAE pushed Pakistan close in the group-stage game before letting the opportunity slip away. "When you give the big teams an opportunity, they will take it. In that game, we had them at 100 for seven *(sic)* and let them score 140 *(sic)*. We also batted only 18 overs *(sic)*. These are things we need to improve."

"I think ILT20 has had a big impact on the players. Rubbing shoulders with top players has given them confidence, and they are starting to believe they can do it," said Rajput.

I have done whatever I could to make a comeback, says Nagal

DAVIS CUP

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

To have your best singles player under a fitness cloud ahead of a crucial Davis Cup tie is never the ideal preparation.

India captain Rohit Rajpal would have been experiencing this tension ever since Sumit Nagal retired from his second-round match at the Nonthaburi Challenger near Bangkok in Thailand little over three weeks ago.

However, at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium here on Thursday, Nagal expressed happiness that his comeback was on track, with the Davis Cup qualifier against the Netherlands starting on Saturday.

"I am feeling better day by day," Nagal said after practice.

Friendly battle: Nagal and Dhakshineswar in high spirits during practice. K. MURALI KUMAR

"For me, the camp started right after Bangkok. I have been working a lot in the last two-three weeks. I don't have any complaints. I have done whatever I could to get ready."

The 28-year-old admitted that there were fears that the muscle tear in his hip could force him out for much longer.

"You don't know how you are going to recover," Nagal elaborated.

"Every day you wake up, you don't know if you are going to be sore or how much load you can take. The thoughts were there throughout the three weeks. Even yesterday, even today. The first match [after injury] is always like this. But, you name it, I have done it."

The congenial team atmosphere a Davis Cup fixture offers should help calm his nerves and energise him.

"The environment is lovely," the World No. 281 said. "We joke around a lot and we make rookies do a lot of stupid things. Wherever I see my Indian mates, I am with them.

"It is tough at Slams because our schedules are different, the site is so big and everybody is spread out.

"But whenever we get a chance, we are always doing things together."

Prozorova makes light of an injury to tame Sidorova

MUMBAI OPEN

Tarun Shastry
MUMBAI

Despite an injury scare that struck at the worst possible moment and the weight of intense humidity, Russia's Tatiana Prozorova produced a stirring display to thump Kristiana Sidorova 6-4, 6-1 in the round-of-16 and move into the quarterfinals of the L&T Mumbai Open 125K Series at the Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association courts here on Thursday.

From the outset, Prozorova was in command and dictated play with heavy cross-court forehands, opened the court with the backhand down the line, and consistently disrupted Sidorova's timing. Sidorova never quite found her rhythm, mistiming routine groundstrokes and struggling to settle into rallies as Prozorova mixed depth with subtle variations. With assured net play and firm volleys, Prozorova surged ahead to pocket the opening set 6-4.

Gritty: Prozorova overcame movement discomfiture to advance to the last eight. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Just before the second set began, the contest took an unexpected turn. Prozorova pulled a muscle in her left thigh and returned to the court heavily taped, her movement visibly restricted. For a fleeting moment, Sidorova sensed an opening as Prozorova conceded a game while testing her leg, relying on slices to stay afloat.

What followed, however, was a striking shift in momentum. Prozorova began shortening points with bold returns and stepping inside the baseline to strike flat forehands into the corners. She used angled backhands to stretch Sidorova wide, finishing points with crisp volleys and the occasional teasing lob.

Any hope Sidorova harboured faded away as Prozorova reeled off four games on the trot, sealing the second set 6-1 with a flurry of cross-court winners and unreturnable serves to march into the quarterfinals.

Other results: Singles (round-of-16): Tian Fangran (Chn) bt Hanne Vandewinkel (Bel) 2-6, 6-4, 6-4; Lanlana Tararudee (Tha) bt Park So-hyun (Kor) 3-6, 6-3, 6-0; Lilli Tagger (Aut) bt Eri Shimizu (Jpn) 6-2, 6-2.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Nicole Fossa Huergo (Arg) & Mananchaya Sawangkaew (Tha) bt Rutuja Bhosale & Peangtarn Plipuech (Tha) 4-6, 6-1(9).

INBRIEF

Honoured to carry Olympic flame at Winter Games: Bindra

Olympic gold medallist shooter Abhinav Bindra on Thursday said he is "truly humbled" and "honoured" after carrying the Olympic torch ahead of the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics, describing it as a symbol of unity and perseverance. The Winter Olympics begin on Friday at Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo in Italy. "Honoured to carry the Olympic flame at @milanocortina26. A symbol of unity, perseverance, and shared human aspiration," Bindra wrote on 'X'.

HI names 24-member squad for Pro League

A 24-member squad for the upcoming home leg of the FIH Pro league was named on Thursday with several youngsters finding place in the Indian men's hockey team's season opening competition for the year. The Rourkela leg is scheduled from February 10-15 with Argentina and Belgium being the other teams. While Pawan Malik gets a chance in the goal, defender and drag-flicker Amandeep Lakra has earned a call-up after an impressive outing in the Hockey India League, where he was adjudged the player-of-the-tournament. Also included are 21-year-old Rosan Kujur with his maiden call-up to the senior National squad and Manmeet Singh, both part of the side that won bronze at recent Junior World Cup.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Suraj Karkera, Pawan.

Defenders: Amit Rohidas, Jarmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh, Harmanpreet Singh, Sumit, Sanjay, Nilam Sanjeep Xess, Amandeep Lakra.

Midfielders: Rajinder Singh, Manmeet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Hardik Singh, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Rosan Kujur.

Forwards: Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Selvam Karthi, Mandeep Singh, Araijeet Singh Hundal, Aditya Arjun Lalage.

Ready to fire: Jaiswal and Karun will be keen to get going for their respective teams. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Mumbai takes on Karnataka in a marquee quarterfinal

Home team sweating over the availability of Sarfaraz; visitors will pin hopes on the in-form captain Padikkal as well as the experienced duo of Rahul and Karun to come good

RANJI TROPHY

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

As Devdutt Padikkal walked towards the dressing room after a rigorous training session, he was greeted by Yashasvi Jaiswal. The two exchanged pleasantries and were engaged in a long conversation before obliging selfie requests.

And, it was not just them. During Thursday's practice session, players from Mumbai and Karnataka were seen in conversation, often sharing laughter.

However, friendship will take a backseat when the two teams meet in the Ranji Trophy quarterfinals at the MCA-BKC ground, starting Friday.

On the back of a sensational victory against Punjab, a confident Karnataka will pin its hopes on captain Padikkal as well as the seasoned K.L. Rahul and Karun Nair to fire. For Mumbai, there are concerns over the availability of Sarfaraz Khan, who has been admitted to a hospital due to fever.

"Our team physio and the doctor who's looking after him in the hospital are constantly monitoring him. But we are hoping that he will play," Mumbai captain Shardul Thakur said.

Depth in batting

If Sarfaraz fails to recover in time, it will be a massive blow for the home team. However, with Jaiswal returning to the squad and Siddhesh Lad proving his mettle with five centuries, there's enough depth in Mumbai's batting.

With the pitch likely to favour the spinners as the game progresses, it will be a challenge for the Mumbai batters to take on leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal, one of Karnataka's most consistent bowlers.

For Karnataka, too, it's about playing to its strength. It has not won the title in more than a decade. Under Padikkal's leadership, the team hopes to play some fearless cricket.

While it has an enviable batting line-up – featuring India internationals – the bowling unit, too, has enough firepower with the experienced Prasidh Krishna leading the pack, along with Vidwath Kaverappa and V. Vyshak.

RANJI QUARTERFINALS

Mumbai vs. Karnataka (Mumbai); Bengal vs. Andhra (Kalyani); Madhya Pradesh vs. J & K (Indore); Jharkhand vs. Uttarakhand (Jamshedpur).

SNAPSHOTS

Indian shuttlers lose to Thailand but qualify for quarterfinals

Tanvi Sharma produced a stunning win, but defending champion India suffered a narrow 2-3 loss to Thailand in its second Group Y match of the Badminton Asia Team Championships in Qingdao, China, on Thursday. Despite the defeat, India qualified for the quarterfinals. India finished second in the group behind Thailand.

The result: Thailand 3 bt India 2 (Busanan Ongbamrungphan lost to Tanvi Sharma 14-21, 21-17, 18-21; Tidapron Kleebyeesun & Nattamon Laisuan lost to Gayatri Gopi Chand & Treesa Jolly 14-21, 22-20, 11-21; Pitchamon Opatniputh bt Rakshitha Ramraj 21-19, 21-17; Hathaithip Mijad & Napapakorn Tungkasatan bt Tanisha Crasto & Shruti Mishra 19-21, 21-14, 21-15; Pornpicha Choeikeewong bt Malvika Bansod 21-18, 21-14).

Keerthana to meet Anupama in Asian snooker semifinals

India's Keerthana Pandian stormed into the women's semifinals with an 18-57, 39-29, 52(36)-41, 51-24 victory over Hong Kong's Chu Pui Ying in the Asian snooker championships in Doha on Thursday.

Keerthana will meet former champion and compatriot Anupama Ramachandran, the reigning IBSF world champion, for a place in the final.

Anupama overcame Hong Kong's Yee Ting Cheung 32-60, 63(62)-25, 62-26, 31-40, 52-18.

Hong Kong's Ho Yee Ki downed Amee Kamani, the third Indian to make the knockouts, 23-51, 21-53, 44(37)-1, 57(30)-10, 52-36.

In the men's under-21 section, India's Aarav Sancheti went down 1-4 to Malaysia's Muhammad Wafi in the pre-quarterfinals.

Lovlina starts with win

Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain started her campaign blanking Ukraine's Olha Pylypchuk 5-0 in the 75kg category in the BOXAM Elite International 2026 in Alicante, Spain.

The results: Women: 75kg: Lovlina Borgohain bt Olha Pylypchuk (Ukr) 5-0, Sanamacha Chanu bt Viktoria Penney (Can) 4-1; **70kg:** Arundhati Choudhary bt Aziza Issina (Kaz) 5-0; **51kg:** Nitu bt Laura Calderon (Esp) RSC in Round 1, Kusum bt Claudia Alcaniz (Esp) 4-1; **48kg:** Manju Rani bt Gloria d'Almeida (Fra) 5-0.

Men: 90kg: Harsh Choudhary bt Bryan Colwell (Can) 5-0; **80kg:** Ankush bt Yerassyl Zhakpekov (Kaz) 3-2; **70kg:** Hitesh Gulia bt Vincent Santoriello (Can) 5-0, Deepak bt David Edenel Rosalen (Esp) 5-0; **55kg:** Pawan Bartwal bt Thanarat Saengphet (Tha) retired in Round 2, Jadumani Singh bt Siiovush Mukhammdiiev (Ukr) 4-1.

Poojari wins gold in Elite 60kg category

Two-time Commonwealth Games medallist Gururaja Poojari rode on his better clean and jerk show to total 269kg and beat reigning Commonwealth championships gold medallist Ch. Rishikanta Singh by 3kg for the men's Elite 60kg title at the National weightlifting championships in Modinagar on Thursday.

The results (winners only): Men: Elite: 60kg: Gururaja Poojari (Kar) snatch 119kg, clean and jerk 150kg, total 269kg; **Junior: 60kg:** Chera Tania (Aru) 110kg, 143kg, 253kg; **Youth: 60kg:** Subrat Naik (Odi) 107kg, 125kg, 232kg; **56kg:** Dharma Jyoti Dewgharia (SSCB) 103kg, 127kg, 230kg.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT
ROAD DIVISION, DUMKA
3RD CORRIGENDUM DETAILS of NIT
TENDER REFERENCE No.- RCD/DUMKA/27
PR 371797 (Road) 25-26*D

NAME OF THE WORK - Widening and Strengthening/ Reconstruction of Barmasia PWD Road to Saharghati Road (Total Length - 8.130 Km) under Road Division Dumka for the year 2025-26.

CORRIGENDUM DETAIL of NIT

4	Date of Publication of Tender on Website – 11.02.2026 10:30 AM **in place of** 03.02.2026 10:30 AM
5	Last date/Time for receipt ofbids 09.03.2025 Up to 12.00 Noon **in place of** 25.02.2026 Up to 12.00 Noon
6	Date of opening of Tender – 10.03.2026 at 12.30 PM **in place of** 26.02.2026 at 12.30 PM

Other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Executive Engineer
Road Construction Department,
Road Division, Dumka

PR 372308
Road(25-26)D

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
Electrical Works

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & Licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No. SUR/TD/T/2025/26R**, **Name of work:** Electrical TRD portion of work in connection with Proposed coaching maintenance depot at Tikekarwadi (Phase-1) (Re-invitation) **Estimated cost:** ₹ 5,62,96,465.20. **Bid Security:** ₹ 4,31,500/-, **Completion period:** 12 months. **Validity of offer:** 60 Days. **Date & time of tenders closing on website:** 02.03.2026 at 15.00 hrs. EXP-06

Download UTS App for Tickets

PEGASUS ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED
55-56, 5th Floor, Free Press House, Nariman Point
Mumbai - 400 021. Tel.: 022 61884700
E-Mail : sys@pegasus-arc.com, URL : pegasus-arc.com

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE BY E-AUCTION

Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rules 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the below mentioned Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) and Mortgagor(s) that the below described secured assets being immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor being, **M/s. Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Private Limited** acting in its capacity as Trustee of as Trustee of the Pegasus - 2023 Trust 3 (Pegasus), having been assigned the debts of the below mentioned Borrower along with underlying securities interest by **M/s PNB Housing Finance Ltd (PNBHFL)** vide Assignment Agreement **Dated 30.09.2022** under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act, 2002.

The **Physical Possession** of the below described immovable property has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Pegasus being the secured creditor and is being sold under the provisions of SARFAESI Act and Rules thereunder on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** basis. The details of Auction are as follows :

Name of the Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) and Mortgagors :	**1. Mr. Suresh Gowda 2. Mrs. Sindhu Suresh Gowda**
Outstanding Dues for which the secured assets are being sold :	**Rs. 5,82,60,620.94/- (Rupees Five Crore Eighty-Two Lakh Sixty Thousand Six Hundred Twenty and Paise Ninety-Four Only) due as on 21.11.2024** along with further interest at contractual rate and cost, charges and expenses thereon till the date of payment and realization.
Details of Secured Asset being Immovable Property which is being sold	**Mortgaged by Suresh Gowda and Sindhu Suresh Gowda :-** Apartment No. "3C" on the 3rd Floor of the building known as 'SIGNATURE' constructed along with an undivided right and interest of 1100 Sq.Ft. equivalent to 6543 Sq.Ft. in the Site No. 591 (P-1), New P.I.D No. 160-W0359-9, having Katha No. 84/591/93 in Sector No. 'C', Measuring Super built up area of 5600 Sq.Ft. with Four Bedrooms, 4 Balconies, a Kitchen with Utility, Two Separate Private Terrace, inclusive of Proportionate Share of Common Areas along with Separate Terrace Rights and One car parking space in the basement of the building in Phase-1, Ideal Homes Township, HBCS Layout, Kenchanhalli, Halagavedarahalli, Bangalore South Taluk (Rajarajeswarinagar), Bengaluru. The said Flat is bounded on the :- **East by :** 3B, **West by :** Site No. 588, **North by :** Site No. 592, **South by :** Site No. 590.
CERSAI ID :	**Security Interest ID : 400012833627 Asset ID : 200012807058.**
Reserve Price below which the Secured Asset will not be sold (In Rs.) :	**Rs. 2,11,68,000/- (Rupees Two Crores Eleven Lakhs Sixty Eight Thousand Only).**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) :	**Rs. 21,16,800/- (Rupees Twenty-One Lakhs Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Only)**
Claims, if any, which have been put forward against the property and any other dues known to Secured creditor and value.	A notice has been affixed to the property by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) claiming pending charges. The buyer needs to ascertain the same prior to submission of the bid and such charges shall be borne by the buyer.
Inspection of Properties :	**12.02.2026**
Contact Person and Phone No. :	**Bhaskar Sarat Turaga, (M) : 9902045750 Shankar Balasubramanian (M) : 8056178667**
Last date for submission of Bid :	**23.02.2026 till 4:00 PM**
Time and Venue of Bid Opening :	**E-Auction / Bidding through Website : (https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net) on 24.02.2026 from 10.00 AM to 11.00 AM.**

This publication is also **15 Days'** notice to the aforementioned Borrower / Co-Borrower / Guarantors / Mortgagors under Rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002. For the detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to Secured Creditor's **Website : i.e. http://www.pegasus-arc.com/assets-to-auction.html or Website : https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net or contact service provider E Procurement Technologies Ltd. Auction Tiger Bidder Support Nos : 079-68136805 / 68136837, Mobile : +919265562821 & 9374519754, Email : vijay.shetty@auctiontiger.net, chintan.bhatt@auctiontiger.net, support@auctiontiger.net** before submitting any bid.

Authorised Officer
Date : 05-02-2026
Place : Bangalore
Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd.
(Acting in its capacity as Trustee of the Pegasus - 2023 Trust 3)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RDW&S DEPARTMENT
Court Road, Chamarajanagara Division, Chamarajanagara
Office And EE : 08226-226054, E-mail : eerdwsd.chn2014@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 08/2025-26, Dated : 02-02-2026

On Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Dept, Chamarajanagara Division, **Chamarajanagar** Invites from eligible General Contractors for the execution of **Supply of Goods / Equipment to the Material Recovery Facility at Shivapura Grama Panchayath in Chamarajanagar Taluk in Chamarajanagar District** respectively. The eligible Bidders / Tenders Contractors required to submit through E-Procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The Notification includes Packages/ individual Goods Tender Estimated Costvaries from **Rs. 97.75 Lakhs**. Tenders are invited through E-procurement Portal only.

1	Date & Time of Publication of Tender	02-02-2026 17:00 hrs Onwards
2	Last date of Submission of bids	10-02-2026 @ 17:00 hrs
3	Date & Time of opening of Technical Bids	11-02-2026 @ 10:00 hrs
4	Date & Time of opening of Financial Bids	13-02-2026 @ 10:00 hrs

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW & S Department,
Chamarajanagara Division, Chamarajanagara.
No. : DIPR:CHANAGAR:681:2025-26

भारत सरकार
कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस),
आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वी मंज़िल,
प्लाट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई.एम्.टी. मानेसर, गुडगाँव,
हरियाणा - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
IICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK --6
PUBLIC NOTICE
[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public Notice:ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2025-26/1912 **Date:** 28/01/2026

Reference:

In the matter of striking off or removal of names of **(19)** companies in the state of Karnataka under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AC1373595	U43219KA2024PTC192095	ACE SPECTRUM CONSULTANTS PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AC1349908	U72900KA2016PTC093852	OCTAGATE TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AC1448866	U72900KA2022PTC161418	FUTR TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AC1406687	U85100KA2014PTC076757	KNOWURTURE HEALTH SOLUTIONS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AC1439753	U74900KA2013PTC070349	COMPLETE TECHNO SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
6	AC1510031	U72900KA2018OPC117181	TI2NAG TECHNOLOGIES (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
7	AC1525496	U72900KA2020PTC139866	NEW10LABS PRIVATE LIMITED
8	AC1606388	U47912KA2023OPC181949	NOKINOKI(OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
9	AC1231614	U70200KA2024PTC187562	PULSEPOINT SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
10	AC1239308	U72900KA2019PTC121069	ECAIOT SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED
11	AC1398745	U74999KA2017PTC107414	GSS-TRAINING PRIVATE LIMITED
12	AC1170439	U72900KA2021PTC146266	TRANSLOGIC GLOBAL SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
13	AC0212164	U74900KA2008PTC044856	BOOKBUZZR BOOK MARKETING TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
14	AC0577091	U72900KA2016PTC095664	BALLYHOO CONSULTANCY SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
15	AC0846154	U51311KA2006PTC038355	SUMOLO TRENDZ PRIVATE LIMITED
16	AC0894027	U62013KA2024PTC195539	FINCONNECT GLOBAL SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
17	AC0939017	U36990KA2019PTC128136	VIOSIP SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
18	AC1078315	U72900KA2022PTC169309	FIDELITUS TECH PRIVATE LIMITED
19	AC1029471	U47711KA2023PTC179431	AYRA'S COLLECTION PRIVATE LIMITED

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.

3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.

4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Irkan Tirkey
Deputy Registrar
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

CBC 07123/11/0661/2526

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Nagarabhivriddhi Bhavan, # 22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560 038, **Ph:** 080-25196124-129
Website: www.kuidfc.com **e-mail:** info@kuidfc.com

No. KUIDFC/UWM/TEND/2025-26/27/5522 **Date:05.02.2026**

Tender Notification

KUIDFC invites tenders under SBM (U) 2.0 fund for below mentioned project from the eligible Contractors. The tender document will be available on KPP portal of GoK **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**

Sl. No	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender (Excl GST) Rs in Lakhs	EMD Rs in Lakhs
1.	"Construction of Sewage Treatment Plant in Pandavapura Town"– Call 4.	916.51	14.00
2.	"Construction/Upgradation of Various capacities of Sewage Treatment Plant in Bannur, Bogadi, Rammanahalli and Kadakola" under SBM (U)-2.0 Fund in DBOT model- Call 2.	1330.25	14.00

1) Tender Publish Date : **06.02.2026. 2)** Pre-bid meeting Date & Time : **13.02.2026 Time: 11.30 AM. 3)** Last Date & Time for Bid submission : **18.02.2026 Time: 5.30 PM. 4)** Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid : **20.02.2026 Time: 11.00 AM. 5)** Date & Time of Opening of Financial bid **: 27.02.2026 Time: 11.00 AM.**
Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPP portal. Any further notification will be through KPP portal and KUIDFC official website only.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit
UWM-KUIDFC Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5438/NR/2025-26

Four-star Kerala demolishes Punjab, sets up summit clash with Services

Riyas stars with a brace for the seven-time champion while Ajsal and Viknesh score one apiece; Harjit being sent off in the 72nd minute compounds the opponent's woes: Abhishek's double seals the fate of Railways in the first last-four encounter; final to be played on Sunday

Putting the game to bed: Viknesh capitalised on a defensive error to make it 3-0 for Kerala at the stroke of half-time. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SANTOSH TROPHY

Sports Bureau
SILAPATHAR

Kerala stormed into the final of the 79th Santosh Trophy National football championship by crushing a 10-man Punjab 4-0 in the semifinal at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Thursday.

Seven-time champion Kerala will meet Services in the final on Sunday. Services defeated Railways 2-0 in the first semifinal at the same venue.

Muhammed Ajsal opened the scoring for Kerala in the 16th minute as he headed in M.M. Arjun's corner-kick from the far post.

Set-piece does the trick

P.T. Muhammed Riyas doubled the lead in the 34th through a set-piece move off another corner-kick taken by Arjun.

Bibin Ajayan ran into the box to receive the short corner and relayed it to an unmarked Riyas who scored from close range.

M. Viknesh capitalised on a defensive error to make it 3-0 at the stroke of half-time.

Punjab was reduced to 10 men in the 72nd minute when Harjit was sent off for his second bookable offence. Riyas netted from Ajsal's assist to complete the rout in the 83rd.

Earlier, Abhishek Pawar struck once in each half as Services beat Railways to enter the final for the 13th time. Abhishek volleyed home the first goal and converted a penalty for the second when Zaheer Khan was tripped inside the box by a Railway defender.

The results (semifinals): Services 2 (Abhishek Pawar 32, 73) bt Railways 0; Punjab 0 lost to Kerala 4 (Muhammed Ajsal 16, P.T. Muhammed Riyas 34, 83, M. Viknesh 45).

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.

Men's U-19 World Cup (final): England vs India, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 1 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)

Serie A: DAZN, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)

Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Silver for Samrat-Suruchi duo in 10m air pistol

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Samrat Rana and Suruchi Singh joined forces to clinch silver in the 10m air pistol mixed team event in the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range on Thursday.

India extended its domination by taking its gold count to 10 after two days of the competition.

The host has also bagged five silver medals and one bronze. Uzbekistan is second in the tally with three gold medals.

In the 10m air pistol women's junior event, Rashmika Sahgal and Vanshika Chaudhary finished one-two respectively.

Top three: Suruchi and Samrat, left, on the podium with the Uzbekistan and Taiwanese pairs. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the corresponding youth category, Priyanshi Purva won gold while Chahek Kohli finished second.

Uzbekistan's lone gold of the day came from the 10m air pistol mixed team pair of Nigina Saidkulova and Mukhammad Kamalov, which prevailed over Samrat and Suruchi by 481.3 to 479.6 in the final points.

The Indian pair had earlier topped the 10-team qualification round with a total of 583 after 60 shots.

Three more teams, Vietnam (582, 2nd) and Chinese Taipei (575, 4th), besides Saidkulova and Kamalov, followed them into the final.

Two more gold medals for the host came through the team competitions.

The trio of Rashmika, Vanshika and Agam Grewal won the junior women's air pistol team gold with a combined tally of 1714, 43 points ahead of the silver-winning Kazakhstan team.

Priyanshi, Chahek and Shiksha Saran also won the women's youth air pistol team gold with 1709.

Kazakhstan won silver in this category as well with a score of 1627.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Pavandeep's double ton powers Karnataka to huge total against Goa

VIZIANAGARAM: Pavandeep R. Bharadakane scored a double century (235) and Prabhav Pydah a century (146 n.o.) as Karnataka ran up a mammoth 406 for one declared on day one of the U-14 Boys South Zone tournament match versus Goa.

The scores: Karnataka 406/1 decl. in 50 overs (Pavandeep R. Bharadakane 235, Prabhav Pydah 146 n.o.) vs. Goa 66/3 in 25 overs.

Raghu and Rujula in quarterfinals

BENGALURU: Karnataka's M. Raghu and Rujula Ramu entered the singles quarterfinals of the Yonex-Sunrise All India senior ranking badminton tournament following contrasting victories on Thursday.

While Raghu overcame Maharashtra's Arya Bhivpathaki 21-11, 22-24, 21-12, Rujula beat Delhi's Anwesha Gowda 21-15, 21-17.

Venkatesh's unbeaten hundred sets up Johnson CC's big win

T.L. Venkatesh scored an unbeaten 116 as Johnson CC thrashed YMCA CC (1) by 141 runs in the KSCA (Group I) fifth division tournament.

The scores: Johnson 321 in 44.5 overs (Syed Muteeb Uddin 55, Ajith 60, T.L. Venkatesh 116 n.o., K. Darshan Kumar 5/60) bt YMCA (1) 180 in 40.5 overs (Rayan Roshan Qureshi 57 n.o., M. Jayasurya 4/36, B.R. Saurav Varma 4/48).

Government Arts College 90 in 21.3 overs lost to Seshadripuram PU College 92/2 in 18.5 overs

MES College 212 in 45.5 overs bt United 189 in 41.1 overs (K. Kishore Naik 61, A. Muralidhara Rao 5/46).

Indiranagar Cricketers 232/7 in 50 overs (Parth Nitesh Patel 72) bt Gary Cricketers 120/8 in 50 overs (L.K. Viswanath 53 n.o.).

YMCA (2) 186 in 32.3 overs (Abhishek Katagi 45, G.K. Chirag 58) lost to Sri Jayachamarajendra 189/3 in 34.3 overs (Aaryansinh Chavda 55 n.o, Dhruv Vasu 57 n.o.).

SSK 123 in 32.2 overs (Sapthagiri Suresh Khoday 50, K. Deeraj 4/10) lost to Canarese 124/3 in 12.5 overs (Pranjal Jain 44).

Bangalore Eagles FC has it easy

Bangalore Eagles FC beat Sree Gajanana FC 5-2 in the BDFA A-division football league here on Thursday.

The results: A-div.: Bangalore Eagles FC 5 (Mylliemgap 2, B. Vinod 26, R. Vijay Kumar 36, V. Sidhardh 86, Seigoulen Kipgen 88) bt Sree Gajanana FC 2 (Rohit Kumar 29, B. Niroshan Mani 45+3); Technico OF 3 (Nathan Akash Powell 4, Ronn Jairus Joel 22, C.S. Ameer 49) bt DYES FC 1 (Chandhan 50).

B-div.: Vehicles FC 3 (Pasupathi 13, 75, A. Charles 80+1) bt South India FC 0; Mysore Vijayanagar FC 2 (Mayur Kshetra Gyana 27, 75) bt ADE FC 0.

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